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THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

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THE NEW YEAR 1875.

We hail! with delight, the coming of the *New Year* 1875, and trust it may prove a happy one to each of our patrons and every one of our host of readers. May the seasons be propitious, and the land bring forth abundantly to reward the labor of the industrious tiller of the soil! May health, peace and plenty, "religion and piety," be sent to bless and abide in the land throughout the year!

The successful farmer does not rely on the seasons or entirely on Providence, or "luck," as some term it. He at the beginning of the year, like the money making merchant, "takes stock," that is, he makes an honest, fair inventory of his personal property on the farm, and ascertains the exact or approximate amount he has invested. Then a list of all animals, machinery and implements that will be wanted, with a supply of seeds, food for man and beast, fertilizers, &c. The number of regular laborers he may want, he employs or engages, in time. He opens accounts against different fields, and a stock account, a cash account, a diary of the weather, and work daily or weekly performed, with general remarks and notes of facts as to the different manures and their action on different crops on the various soils and under the peculiarities of the season. In addition, he has the general account with the farm, which is credited with everything it yields, that he uses or sells, and charges it with interest on its cost, taxes, &c.—of this account we shall speak more in detail at a future time, and of its necessity. In this way he will set himself systematically to work knowingly, and like the thriving sensible man of business, engaged in other avocations, be prepared to justly and fairly balance his profit and loss.

Good resolutions are to be formed, such as the daily practice of industrious habits and close attention to his work; seeing with his own eye that every man does his duty, settling himself the example of strict punctuality and minute attention to his business, showing to his laborers and to all the

world, that he is not *ashamed* of his calling, but is proud of it as one of the noblest avocations in which man has ever been or ever can be engaged. The oldest and most wealthy and prosperous merchant is often the hardest working man in the establishment. He takes off his coat and goes to work, permitting company nor anything else to withdraw his attention, and he glories in his employment; often hard at work at his desk for hours after his clerks have retired. With how many of our planters and farmers in this the case? We fear, with but a precious few in this section. The older ones have never been used to it and cannot get into the habit, and the young men, we say it sorrowfully but truthfully, are ashamed to say they work on the farm, and are too shame-faced or craven-spirited to be seen, at plow or driving the team, by their young acquaintances, as if such work was not just as honorable as sweeping a store, tying up packages and such menial town work. Of course there are exceptions, and such will *make farming pay*, provided they will read and improve their minds by the learning, and experience of practical writers and able scientists, whose discoveries and experiments are found in books, and agricultural papers and magazines, like the *Maryland Farmer* and its contemporaries.

It is to be hoped, and indeed may be expected, that the gloom which has hung over the agricultural interest will soon be dissipated. The people have manifested of late a determination to do justice to that all important industry, and to permit it no longer to languish under unjust burthens of taxation, that other employments may be fostered, the capitalists cherished, and monopolies grow hugely rich under liberal charters and protective tariffs. These reforms brought about with others, in a short time will elevate the noble pursuit to an equality at least, in the benefits of legislation, that other branches of human employment now enjoy, and agriculture will again flourish and be, as it should, recognized as the most important of all the varied avocations of man.

A CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM OF FARMING NEEDED IN MANY PARTS OF MARY- LAND AND VIRGINIA.

Since the abolition of slavery, and the entire change in our domestic institutions, our people have continued to pursue the same routine, and grown the same crops they did with slave labor, and which was remunerative under the then state of things.— But they find it now unprofitable, owing to the unreliable character and the high price of labor, added, in some sections, to unfavorable seasons. Thus in the tobacco regions and on light lands, the owners of farms are daily going behind hand, and many are desirous to sell their farms for half that they would readily have commanded before the unfortunate war.

There are many sections in Maryland like the lands bordering on the railroads and navigable streams in Southern Maryland, and like the Piedmont region in Virginia, which are adapted to the growth of tobacco and corn, but are not wheatlands. Corn is a crop that pays but little profit, and tobacco, unless the seasons are propitious, will not nett expenses. Now these lands are mostly fine grass lands, and peculiarly adapted to fruit growing.

Under these circumstances and condition of affairs is it not apparent that there should be a change in the system of farming, especially on all the farms which lie contiguous to, or are not too far off from navigation, or rail, which furnish quick transportation to the great cities?

What that change should be to work the greatest benefit to the farmer seems self evident. It is to grow less wheat, and only corn enough to feed the stock, grow fruit, grapes for wine, raise stock, graze, and enter extensively into the dairy business, either in sending milk or butter to market, or in having a neighborhood cheese factory. The latter has proved very profitable in the North and Northwest.

It will be apparent at a glance, that such a system would require less labor, and a better and more faithful class or more or less skilled labor. In this fact there would be comfort, less uneasiness about the seasons, and far less vexation and bother in watching the lazy negro, to get only a part of the work he ought do.

Once get the farm set in grass, with as large a stock as it will carry, the lands must necessarily increase in fertility. This system would require less fencing, for the fields might be enlarged, and the soiling system would be pursued for several months in the year. Sheep could be kept with advantage to the flock and to the pocket receipts of the owner. Hogs might be made a source of no inconsiderable

revenue for skim milk on the butter farms. Butter, if well made, (and there is no excuse for bad butter) if the dairymen or women are cleanly, active, and take an interest in the different operations, and have plenty of two cheap commodities, ice and cool water, with fixtures of the present day to neutralize cold and make butter in winter equal in quality to butter made in Spring and Autumn. The temperature of the milk room should be, as far as can be, even and steady, at the proper degree, say about sixty degrees. But uniformity is the main point, let the degree be what it may. The cleanliness observed should be scrupulous, and the butter well printed or packed. It should never be slovenly sent into market. As soon as it is known to be from a perfectly reliable maker, crowds will attend and buy out the owners stock as fast as he can put it in market.

Every one intending to go into the dairy business should get first the valuable little book of Professor Wilkinson, offered by us as a premium to each paying subscriber of the *Maryland Farmer*.

A cow fit for a dairy should not average less than three or four gallons per day for four or six months after calving, from that amount she will gradually fall off until she goes dry, or have a calf of her own to pet and fondle. It is a poor cow which will not give 200 lbs. of butter per annum, which at an average of 40 cents is \$80. Many will give more.— Much will depend on the dairyman or maid, and much has been done of late to facilitate butter making by improvement in dairies and milk pans, arrived at by careful experiments. A well established character for superior butter is rewarded by high prices. Prints from a first class dairy will command readily 75 cents to \$1 per pound the year round, at which rate each cow will yield from \$200 to \$300 dollars per annum.

Under this system, sheep will glean and clean the land of all weeds and troublesome bushes and briars. Hogs will use up the sour milk and produce heavy pork. If it be a milk farm, each cow ought to yield at a low estimate 600 gallons per annum, at 5 cents per quart net or 20 cents per gallon, which would amount to \$120. Thus twenty cows would yield nett \$2400, less the food and hire for attendants, leaving an income of \$1200, with 100 more added for calves, being \$1300. This is the estimate of an experienced dairyman. To this is to be added the not inconsiderable amount derived from sales of pork and beef, and lambs, wool and mutton. Provided always in the sheep line, the farmer uses powder or strychnine in sufficient quantity to keep the vile cur dogs, and other dogs of better blood, from destroying his flock.

Fruits would form no trifling item in the profits

of such farms, to which could be added vegetables in large quantities, the refuse of which would go a good way in feeding profitably the milch cows, as the best milk producing food that can be furnished cows.

In time, to all these, could be added the industry which is truly money yielding, at a large profit for the labor bestowed, that of cider and wine, and vinegar, and at small cost, the refuse fruits distilled into brandy. Apple, peach, and the grape brandies sell high and always are in demand, especially when made by reliable men in small quantities, where it is usual, and is naturally supposed to be the fact, extra care has been taken in its manufacture.

Really fine wine has been and is now yearly made in counties adjoining the city of Baltimore, on the estate of the Jesuits at White Marsh, that very old Roman Catholic Church in Prince George's county, on the Patuxent river, and superior wine of much note in the market and with the connoisseur wine drinkers of Virginia, is made by one or more gentlemen near Port Royal. All going to show the adaptation of the extensive region, we are particularly writing about, to fruit growing and grapes for packing and wine-making. It will, we feel sure, be admitted by those who are most interested in this matter that they are not doing much under their present system, and it will not be denied that it would be judicious to change, and change if it must be by degrees. The system here pointed out can be slowly introduced, and if it is found not to work advantageously it could be abandoned with little loss. It is one which can be closed as a general thing, at a cash sale for nearly first cost, except the trees and vines, but they are never a loss, as they always, if properly planted and cared for, increase the value of the farm much beyond their original cost.

Again, the system herein recommended not only enriches the soil by the return to it in a concentrated form of manure of all it produces, enlarges the receipts, and at less cost than under the present course of deteriorating management, to land and pocket both, but it has the great advantage of permitting the female members and boys of the household to be employed. Giving the opportunity to utilize many now idle hours—indoctrinating habits of thrift and industry that will be not only pecuniarily beneficial, but be of the utmost importance to their health and physical development.

Another year is beginning, and it would be well if our friends in localities we have pointed out would begin, even were it partially, the change in their system of husbandry. They should, however, recollect that on a small scale it will not show such

encouraging results as may reasonably be expected from an extensive development of the system.

With plenty of grass and roots, and corn, with some rye, lucern, oats and corn sown broadcast or thick in drills, to feed a large stock of cattle and other stock, large quantities of manure would be made, by which heavy crops and large yields of grass would be produced and the entire farm rapidly become improved.

Independent of the fruits, certain vegetables could be grown that pay well, if proper spots be selected, near streams, and on every farm such places are found, only requiring the will of the owner to make them subservient to his interest. Take for instance, of such land, made very rich, and so near the stream that the crops could be easily watered, and a little fortune is to be had from two acres, one in celery and one in cauliflower. At present prices which are unusually low, either acre ought to produce \$500 gross, or \$400 nett, which is \$800, a respectable income. Neither crop would require much labor after the land was enriched and prepared for planting. With the improved hose it could be watered very easily, or the water could be introduced in ditches and with scoops thrown over the plants as is done in Holland. For the celery, salt could be used freely, and it is almost an inexpensive manure or stimulant for that marine plant.

So long as tobacco, and corn and wheat, (neither a paying crop) are the specialties, just so long will be excluded these smaller, yet far more profitable industries, and just so long will our farmers have their noses at the grindstone and be dodging, in misery and hopeless heart-reenings, their creditors and the officers of the law. The system here recommended would make every member of the family a working, earnest co-laborer in the acquisition of wealth, instead of, as now, a non-producing drone. The women of our households, and the girls and boys, would work, if suitable employment could be given them. The dairy in all its departments, the apiary, the poultry yard, each and all open the door, if the head of the household would but pass the decree and cease his daily toil in trotting around grumbling over the short coming of his worthless colored labor, and fretting over bad seasons, high taxes, and low prices of produce.

Blest are the pure and simple hearts,
Unconsciously refined
By the free gifts that heaven imparts
Through nature to the mind.
Not all the pleasures wealth can buy,
Equal their happy destiny.

For them the spring unfolds her flowers;
For them the summer glows;
And autumn's gold and purple bowers,
And winter's stainless snow
Come gifted with a charm to them
Richer than monarch's diadem,

Agricultural Calendar.

FARM WORK FOR JANUARY.

Now that the Hollidays are over and a new year begun, the farmer has to commence his year of coming toil, and give his attention to the farm and all it contains. There is not much pressing work this month, as a general thing, and if our hints for last month were attended to, he has not much more to do now than to follow out those suggestions in regard to the working beasts, milch cows and all the other stock on the farm.

What we said also last month will apply to the present, as to *Gates and Fences*; *Fire wood* and *Ice*; also in reference to *manure*. On the latter subject we beg leave to call your attention to the excellent article of PROF. WILKINSON, in the December number of the *Maryland Farmer*. *Winter mulching pasture land with stable manure*, we have long contended the propriety of, though perhaps not so forcibly or for exactly the same economic reasons our able correspondent does. We have gone even farther, we have said often and still maintain it to be good doctrine, that any time is a good time, that the farmer finds the chance to do so, to haul out and spread manure, long or short, coarse or fine, upon sward or grass land, especially if a little plaster be sown over it as soon as it is spread.

TOBACCO.

Of course, planters will embrace every opportunity to put their crops of tobacco in a state for perfect conditioning for market, which cannot be perfectly done before May or June, perhaps later, even if stript now. It is true thousands of hogsheds are passed inspection and sold, in March and April, but that does not make it right, or prove that it is in the best *condition*. Those who are able to hold on to their crops must reap a solid benefit by doing so. The old crop has been disposed of, or it has not come to market, which is not likely. The warehouses are nearly empty of all tobaccoes except Ohio. Maryland tobacco is scarce, with a good demand and at very fair prices, as we are credibly informed, with a brightening prospect for the spring and summer market. The Connecticut tobacco crop, it is said, was nearly all bought while growing at high figures, but that was owing to the short crop, purposely made so by the growers, who determined to reduce the stock on hand by planting a greatly reduced area the past year.

CORN.

Owing to the dry and splendid season we had for gathering and lofting this crop, it is presumed it will be quite sufficiently dry for market earlier than

most years. It should then be shelled as soon as its condition will permit and put on the market.—It is now bringing a fair price. This crop loses more by shrinkage and waste than any crop grown as a staple on a large scale, hence as a general rule, we think it best that the earliest convenient opportunity should be embraced to put it in market, provided, the price is reasonable, condition of the crop good and marketable, roads and weather permitting transportation, &c.

From actual and careful experiments, the shrinkage of corn has been ascertained to be in six or eight months, from one-fourth to a third. This is a great loss, and is compensated by an advance in price in summer over winter, and then there is great waste from money and various causes.

But many writers, among them Mr. Enfield, author of an exhaustive and valuable treatise on *Indian corn*, who says, it should rarely, if ever, be sold as grain off the farm, to be profitable to the grower, even at \$1 per bushel nett; he says: "The most profitable market for corn, and in nearly all cases the only profitable one, is to be found in the cattle-stall, the pig-stye, the cow-yard and poultry-house: not omitting, of course, the family table, which, though more limited, is as far as its requirements extend, the best of all markets." This he wrote at the time he gives the average price of corn in New York at \$1.20 per bushel (1866) when meats were correspondingly high. We agree with him, that in most cases, corn and hay should be consumed on the farm and transported to market on four feet.

Root Crops.

Thos. T. Tasker, in the *Practical Farmer*, gives the following on product of beets. He says:—My farmer, on the Roadside Farm on Chester Pike, nine miles from Philadelphia, Ridley Township, writes me this morning, (November 4th, 1874,) as follows:—"The yield of beets was a little over 600 bushels. The ground measured 125 by 27 yds. which would bring up the yield 860 bushels to the acre. Some of the beets sent to the Fair of the Baptist Church at Ridley Park, weighed 12 lbs. 6 oz. each."

We deem this a compensating yield and encouraging to the raising of root crops. We find them when used prudently, to be conducive to the health and enjoyment of the cattle in winter; also, very much a measure of economy. The free and sweet juices of these favorites with the cows, keep them bright looking, their hair glossy, good appetites, and no doubt help much towards keeping away diseases. Farmers would find root crops and Hungarian grass, a valuable appendage to the farm routine.

GARDEN WORK.

THE GARDEN WORK FOR JANUARY.

Not much work can be done in the garden during this month, although the weather may prove favorable.

Poles for beans, and brush for peas, may be got ready for use when they are wanted. *Trellises*, for tomatoes and cucumbers can be prepared. Those who have used them for cucumber vines, are as much pleased with their success as with the tomato. Both are essentially runners or climbers, and the trellis culture makes these, otherwise unattractive vegetables, quite ornamental, besides they are rendered more prolific, and the fruit finer, it is claimed. For an excellent trellis, see the illustrated description of one, in the December number of the *Maryland Farmer*.

Hedges, Fruit Trees, Small Fruits, such as gooseberries, &c., may be pruned and trimmed. Though we prefer to have this work done later in the season, say in May or June for fruit trees, and March for the small fruits and hedges, if not done last autumn. Beyond this we have nothing further to suggest except that *compost* beds may now be made, and they are indispensable to success in private gardening.

Hot Beds and Cold Frames, must be very carefully watched and judiciously treated. Those small vegetables, such as lettuce, spinach, radish, &c., can be forced as wanted, by increasing the heat, and as often as required, watered with tepid water, or water from which the chill has been taken. Later in the season, such of these beds as have been used can be replanted with other sorts of vegetables, that you may wish to give an early start to, and the glasses placed on other fresh beds, using for the old beds covering at all times, except when the sun shines brightly, with old matting, old carpets, or straw matting made for the purpose. These things answer well as a substitute glass, are cheap and easily managed by the commonest hands in the garden.

AMBER GLOBE TURNIP.—On our small farm of 150 by 40 feet, says the *Philadelphia Practical Farmer*, we have raised this season a fine crop of the above turnip, which was described in our paper of August last. We are farther confirmed in all that was then said, and recommend it as the best table turnip. It is pronounced by others at once the sweetest and best turnip they have ever tasted, being fine-grained, solid, and the juice from it being largely saccharine. Years ago when in the seed business, we imported it under the name of Yellow Globe Turnip, but Landreth—from whom we obtained the seed—has by careful selections, still farther improved it, and grows and sells it under the name of Amber Globe Turnip.

For the *Maryland Farmer*.

LESS SEED WHEAT.

Upon examining authenticated statements in the annual reports of the Agricultural Department, we see from the experience of both English and American farmers, cases of marked success in using a much smaller quantity than usual of seed wheat.

George Wilkins, in *London Chronicle*, says, in 14 successive crops he has never sowed more than two pecks per acre, and often less, always put in with drill. Average yield for the 14 years was 44 bushels per acre; and two of the years he got 56 bushels per acre.

T. L. M. Cartwright, another English farmer, with drilling two pecks the acre, he got 26 bushels; and with sowing one bushel he got only 28 bushels in harvest.

Another, Hewitt Davis, with three pecks seed per acre, for several successive crops, he got at harvest an average of 40 bushels the acre.

And here are some instances reported of the results of American farmers with small seeding:

W. H. Staunton, of Georgia, in 1868, sowed 25 quarts per acre, and got 50 bushels at harvest.

W. P. Shepard, Nelson county, Virginia, from 5 pecks seed got 24 bushels the acre, without fertilizers.

Charles Baldwin, of Michigan, in 1869, from one bushel per acre seed, harvested 52 bushels.

Augustus Fendal, of Missouri, in 1869, sowed 20 quarts per acre, and got 40 bushels.

It may be seen, we think by the above, that much wheat is wasted by putting too much in the ground.

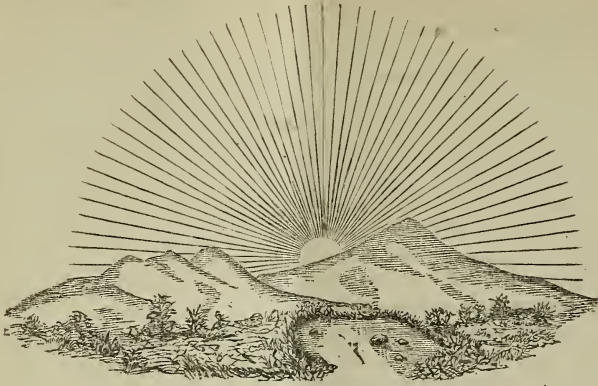
When we carefully consider the structure and habit of a head of wheat, we may see the reason, to some extent, why a great quantity of seed is not necessary, but injurious.

Frequent examinations have shown that good heads of wheat generally contain from 50 to 65 kernels; while the heads often contain nearly twice that many cells, of which from 30 to 50 are found to be empty, and do not get filled out with kernels; but which, if they did, would nearly double the usual yield. And it is also found that those stalks or straws which stand most isolated are generally the best filled out with kernels.

From these facts, observing and intelligent farmers will draw their own inferences and shape their own practise, as they shall think it wise.

D. S. CURTISS.

Prof. Hunt says that "Perennial grasses are the true basis of agriculture in its highest condition." It has been often said that grass is only another name for beef, mutton, bread and clothing.



Blest power of sunshine ! genial day,
 What balm, what life are in thy ray !
 To feel thee is such real bliss,
 That, had the world no joy but this,
 To sit in sunshine calm and sweet,
 It were a world too exquisite
 For man to leave it for the gloom,
 The deep cold shadow of the tomb.

—Moore.

For the *Maryland Farmer*.

THE SUNBEAM.

The most Important Beam in the Stable.

What a blessed mandate was that, when God said
 “*Let there be Light.*”

Only ordinary observation and intelligence are requisite, through the aid of *light*, to enable all to see how very defective and useless all else in creation would be without it ; especially without the vitalizing, all essential *light* of the glorious orb of day ; that “*main spring*” of the universe.

I was reared on a farm, in a high latitude, and when a mere boy, I often observed and admired the marvelous effects of the sun. Every animal, from man down to the ant, even aquatic and amphibious ones, seemed instinctively to seek the genial, life-giving, and life-sustaining influence of the sun. I early observed how eager animals, confined in dark shade, were to get into the sunlight, as soon as they had a glimpse of it : and in cold weather, when placed in a protected, dry position, where they could enjoy the full effect of it, how soon they would, if undisturbed, prostrate their bodies in the most comfortable attitude, to bask and sleep ; and how they all seemed to enjoy the “*sun bath*,” so termed by solar, medical practitioners of modern times.

The associations of childhood are most enduring, and those observations of my youth have been repeated and strengthened from time to time, through my well lengthened life, which has been familiarly spent with a variety of animal and vege-

table life, until they have culminated in a desire to record them for the benefit of those who are to succeed me.

I have well improved those early revelations and impressions of the great value of the full power of the sun, on both plants and animals, by constantly keeping in mind their necessities, and have thereby, at numerous times and places, provided liberally for both of the influences of the great vitalizer.

The potent properties of sunlight exerted in both the animal and vegetable kingdom, has been one of my most interesting studies, and I am forced to the conclusion that sunlight is literally their *sine qua non*.

It will be my purpose to speak particularly of the importance of constructing stables and places of abode for brute animals, with special view to availing in the fullest degree of the invaluable influences of the sun.

More than twenty years since, I built a sty, for a large number of swine, with hollow mortared walls, and a glazed lean-to roof, with a sunny aspect. I also provided an apartment where no sun could enter at any time, inferring that the shady retreat would be highly appreciated by the swine, a large portion of the fervid season, while dwelling in a crystal palace.

I had several years experience with that palatial sty, and to my surprise, I found that with proper ventilation there was but a very small portion of the year, but what the swine preferred to lie in the sun : and their thrift and quietude excelled all my

previous experience, and was most satisfactory.—It had a close, frost-proof cellar under it—the floor of which the swine lived was composed of narrow slats, with proper intermediate spaces, and in cold weather it was at all times liberally covered with dry bedding of straw, and was cleanly kept.

There were spacious openings under both eaves and ridge of the roof, which were used in hot weather, for ventilation.

All rain being excluded from the sty, and the drainage of the floor being fully provided for, with the full power of the sun through the glazed roof, the floor was generally dry, and it was altogether a very comfortable and luxurious sty, though my experience in catering to the necessities of swine has since developed numerous improvements on the sty described; among which are pure water baths, as well as sun baths; and double glazing, instead of single; that is, to use two glass surfaces with space between for confined air, for more thorough protection from cold in the absence of the sun; and the supply of air to the sty at all seasons through subterranean ducts.

This latter feature I prize so highly that I have patented the device; a full description of which is given on page 359 of the December number of this Journal.

I am fully aware that many readers of the "*Farmer*" will, without knowing the cost of constructing stables for cattle and horses, on the principle that I have described, in speaking of the sty, condemn it, on account of its expensiveness.

In reply to such I would say, that I do not recommend glazing the roofs of stables, but in cold climates I do recommend glazing a large portion of the walls where the glass may be most effective in admitting the sun, and to double glaze. I also recommend constructing the walls hollow with a space in which air may be confined; and the use of underground ventilation. And I recommend such construction to all who purpose to erect new stables, and have the means to erect good ones, because I know by eleven years experience that it is economical. I claim, and I can sustain the claim in practice, that an increase in growth and thrift, a superior condition of health, greater comfort to the animals, and a greater ultimate net profit may be derived from stables for both cattle and horses, constructed as I have recommended, than can be obtained by keeping such animals in stables as ordinarily constructed.

The saving of food alone, in cold weather, will not only pay the interest on the additional cost, but it will, in a stable of the size required on ordinary northern farms, pay the entire extra cost in two winters.

Very few stock farmers know how great a saving may be made of forage in the cold season, by keeping their animals at a temperature at which they suffer none with cold, by feeding warm cooked food, and tempering their water so that no chill of the blood is produced.

With the best modern facilities this may all be accomplished in a manner and at a cost that will make it very profitable: to the truth of which, a large number of the most reliable men in the country who have tested it but partially will unhesitatingly attest. In the use of the underground ventilation, and a properly constructed stable, there will be little necessity for providing for excluding the sun from it at any time, as the air supplied with it being admitted at the temperature of the earth, about 60°, is so cool that the power of the sun in the building will not be oppressive.

The direct rays of the sun on the floors, and on the interior of the walls of a stable, are well known to be thoroughly hygienic in their influence.

In fact, the valuable tendency of the full power of the sun on and in animal abodes can scarcely be overestimated; and for humanity's sake I sincerely hope that it will be duly appreciated and generally adopted by the masses, in the early future.

J. WILKINSON,

*Rural Architect, Landscape Gardener
and Consulting Agriculturist, Balto. Md.*

MAKING SAUER-KRAUT.

The best we ever eat we made ourselves for many years, and for a considerable time with our own hands, and always from Savoy cabbage. It was manufactured in this wise: In the first place let your "stand" holding from a half-barrel to a barrel, be thoroughly scalded out; the cutter, the tub and the stamper all well-scalded. Take off all the outer leaves of the cabbages, halve them, remove the heart, and proceed with the cutting. Lay some clean leaves at the bottom of the stand, sprinkle with a handful of salt, fill in half a bushel of the cut cabbage, stamp gently until the juice just makes its appearance, then add another handful of salt, and so on until the stand is full. Cover over the cabbage leaves, place on top a clean board fitting the space pretty well, and on top of that a stone weighing twelve or fifteen pounds.—Stand away in a cool place, and when hard freezing comes on remove to the cellar. It will be ready for use in from four to six weeks. The cabbage should be cut tolerably coarse. The Savoy variety makes the best article, but it is only half as productive as the Drumhead and Flat Dutch. So says the editor of the *German town Telegraph*.

For the Maryland Farmer.

FARMING versus PLODDING.

BY LAND MARK.

In our last article, on this heading, some suggestions were offered, that to promote the highest good of farmers, they have need to know many things besides merely how to raise their products. They have need constantly to know all about the ever changing conditions of the markets of the world, and the causes of those frequent changes; and to know the supply and demand of every region, in order that they may know how to get the best prices; and in order to know what is most profitable for them to raise, in their own particular condition and locality.

By late accounts in an English paper, the *Economist*, it is stated the price of *wheat* is now, in England, lower than for many years before—being 44s per quarter; and that only once in eight years has the price there been as low as 45s.

The reason given by the English papers, for this decline in the price of grain, is that the area or acreage sown in most other countries, is greater than usual. At this time, last year, the price was 59s 10d. per quarter in England.

On general principles this fact would indicate that our farmers should raise more of such articles as may be sold and consumed, without meeting the general competition of all the world;—or, as will not be dictated in price, so positively, by foreign markets, that it will be wise for them to give greater attention to products which are more fully consumed at home; and which afforded a greater profit, and are raised with less labor, though they may be, some of them, more quickly perishable, such as fruits, meats, general provisions, wines, wools, &c.

In this connection we may properly remark, in relation to a more complete water communication—a more adequate medium of transportation—between the grain growing States of the West and the Atlantic States. A year or more ago, we heard Virginia, Carolina, and Maryland farmers offer objections to the extension and enlargement of the Kanawha and James River Canal, because it would bring the cheap grains of the West in competition with those here, which costs more to grow them.—Had they been more fully informed of all the results of such a work—had they possessed a fuller appreciation of it—they would see this very fact would be to their own advantage, as more extended inquiry led some of them to confess afterwards.—It is true that grains can be grown on the rich, cheap lands of the West and supplied to this market at a lower price than farmers can afford to

raise them for, on their old farms. But that is only a partial view of the subject. There are other things which farmers here can raise and put into the market in better condition, in better season, and at lower rates, from the very fact or reason, of getting those cheap grains from the West. We mean meats,—beef, mutton, pork—fresh and sweet, with fine poultry, butter, milk, &c. Now, the grains of Iowa and Kansas, &c., come into markets, from the long transit from the West, in just as good condition, and just as satisfactory to the trade, as that raised here, and as readily command, the best prices; not so with their beef cattle, fat sheep and hogs, poultry and butter; those articles, after a long journey, will not command those large fancy paying prices, which are obtained for the rich, sweet, handsome meats, that are put into the markets here with only a few hours transit. Then it becomes the best interests of the farmers here to buy those cheap grains (cheaper than they care raise them,) and feed them out here and make their money on other things.

Our farmers, in this region, can make more money in buying and feeding cheap Western grain and selling the second products of it, than they can by raising the grain—even, they can make higher profits in this way than the Western farmer can by raising the grain—while the distant one cannot sell small stuffs.

These are things that it is well for farmers, if they have not already done so, to look at, in their length and breadth; and it will lead them to examine fully, in the nature of all the circumstances, what is specially most profitable for them to raise.

The fullest statistics and best authorities, go to show, that farming, as a whole, does not yield more than four per cent. though in some localities and with special crops, and in particular localities, more is sometimes realized. But, after allowing for taxes and interest on land, wear and tear of land, teams, and tools, with labor and decay, more than four per cent. is not realized, oftener less, than that, as profits. Therefore, it is plain that farmers, as a class, cannot afford to pay more than four per cent. for the use of money to carry on their business.—Then, it is not reasonable nor just, that the manufacturer, or merchant, or banker, with less risk from loss and damage, by storms, drouths, and other disasters, and with fewer contingencies of drawbacks, should make greater profits and accumulate speedy fortunes, at the expense of the producing classes.

And it is unjust that legislation and laws, should give the farmers class exclusive privileges and advantages, by chartered rights, over the latter, to make large gains.

No legislation is just or right, which, by special and exclusive privileges, enables one class to make greater gains in business than they can derive by the natural order of business, without such exclusive chartered privileges.

Certainly, their business operations are not more tedious or important and essential than those of the producers of bread and meat; and there is no just reason why the manager of a store, or bank, or railroad, should have such excessive salaries or compensation for their time over that received by a good farmer. Nor why a good mechanic or professional man should be paid so much more largely for his time, than a good farmer gets; it takes as much experience and time, and requiring as good talents, to make a skillful, first class farmer, as a first-class operator in the other branches. More on this head, in another article.

Farmers need to study the basis and principles of transportation carefully too, that they may vote intelligently for legislators, on this question. And many of them will be benefited by reading more largely, and in liberal numbers, the Agricultural Journals of the country.

The railroad question is soon going to be the great problem which farmers have got to meet, understand, and contend with; those gigantic corporations are already studying and combining for the conflict. And it is hopeful and gratifying to see the stand which Col. Garrett, of the B. & O. railroad seems to be taking, on this matter, and if he stands by and extends his movement he will be the friend and receive the approval of the agricultural classes, every where.

And further; if he continues to pursue a liberal policy, he will give Baltimore the lead as a great grain centre. He will thus promote the welfare of the consumers, in this section, as well as the producers of the great West, and secure support of all.

When farmers properly understand their voting power, appreciate their own rights and dignity, and disregard party trammels, they can and will shape legislation in congress more justly and wisely. The newspapers and votes are their weapons.

EARLY BEATRICE PEACH.—Inquiry is made as to the value and earliness of the Beatrice as compared with Hale. We sow it in bearing last summer at Wm. Parry's in New-Jersey, and it was beyond doubt more than a week earlier than Hale, or about ten days. It is, however, much smaller, at the same time that it is brilliant in color, and as yet shows no indications of the formidable drawback to the value of the Hale, namely, the tendency to rot. From specimens received from other sources, we find that its comparative time of ripening in different localities is about as we have stated. —*Country Gentleman*.

For the Maryland Farmer.

STILL MORE OF GRASS AND SHEEP.

In your November number, a correspondent comments upon my article of the previous month, "Seeding to Grass," and shows that he "fails to see in the same light" with me, "the force of his (*my*) criticisms" on certain extracts from the *Country Gentleman*. Every body knows how Doctors will differ, and I do not suppose that your readers will care to ascertain who is more exactly in the right on this point, your correspondent or myself. What concerns them much more, I hope, is the worth of the suggestion, the setting forth and enforcement of which was my only purpose.

This was expressed as follows: "The point to which I set out to call attention, is, that there is not the necessity commonly supposed for the elaborate preparation for seeding recommended by the first writer. This was in allusion to the quotation from an article by Mr. W. H. White of Connecticut, in *Country Gentleman* of August 27th.—The second writer, G. G. of *Country Gentleman*, was quoted and commented upon as sustaining very forcibly my opinion. This opinion was, not that the method of the other was bad, not that it was not the best under some circumstances, but that *there is not the same necessity for it that is commonly supposed*. This seems to be plain. And the reason given for seeking to make this appear, was; "This costly preparation is a great hindrance to the renewal of such lands." "We must adapt our methods, as much as possible, to the limited means of those who must economise to the utmost." The drift of my communication will further appear from the closing paragraph: "I venture to say, that in no way can an old field which we wish to improve, be more economically and surely brought into profitable use than by stocking it to the extent of its feeding capacity with sheep, and treating it as here suggested." How one who is abundantly able, may best prepare for seeding a timothy lot, was not on my mind, but the "old fields" around our old homes, that they may be green with grass again and alive with sheep and cattle. To bring this to pass, and at the same to *live*, to make a living and to pay interest and taxes, is the problem that thousands of our land-holders in Maryland, Virginia and elsewhere, are struggling in an almost hopeless effort to solve. To such as these, high-farming, and "intensive" agriculture and all the ways and means of Alderman Mechi, are but vanity and vexation. But sheep and grass are far otherwise. These are good, familiar creatures, and are not far away out of our reach. What man so poor that he cannot buy twenty ewes, and what

field so impoverished that it will not furnish them grass. How the sheep multiply and how the grass still grows. The more sheep the more grass, and the more grass the more sheep. The sheep is that benefactor, worth more than all the race of politicians, that "makes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before."

It is grazing rather than mowing ground therefore, and hill sides and hollows and all the face of the country made green again with turf, in the interest of which I urge the less costly top-dressing process as against the expensive preparation demanded for a mowing lot. The mowing lot may yield as much grass from one acre as my pasture ground from three, but what matters it if my economical mowers, the sheep, would rather gather it from three than one. On the other hand the same cost that was put upon the one acre has put a sod upon three, which thickens and grows from year year without my further help, and at the same time feeds my sheep. It is otherwise with the mowing ground.

Now this "extensive" system of improvement is designed for those who have more land than they can provide labor and manure to work profitably themselves. They rent their surplus land to the sheep, keeping only so much for the plough as they have means to manure, and to work in the best manner, or on the "intensive" system. The more sheep they can keep, the richer they can make their tobacco lots or mowing lots, or whatever they may fancy, and the larger profits they will make on their labour. Much good advice is thrown away, persuading people to sell their surplus land, and confine themselves to small farms. What is it worth if there is nobody to buy the surplus and no money to pay for it. Much ado is made about bringing in immigrants, who may be very worthless, and very vicious, and who wont come; while sheep are sure to do their work, are very harmless, and will come at a word.

A few words as to our native grasses. We are too apt to suppose, when we have not tried it, that our lands are not adapted to pasturage. We envy those whose fine grazing lands we hear of and rest in the belief that such possessions are out of our reach. We do not bear in mind that such pastures have been many years in process of formation.—One of the writers above mentioned speaks of twelve years as a period through which the native grasses will be thickening and improving, and we know that such pastures are so prized that through fifty, and even sometimes a hundred years, they are not touched by the plough. But in all our corn and tobacco growing region, through a greater length of time, "to kill the grass" has been all our sum-

mer work. Yet we still find it creeping in, and our little wiry blue-grass, the best of all grasses perhaps for sheep, is only a plague and a trouble. We know too that in every fence corner and by every road side and on every lawn, wherever there is protection against the plough, our native green grass and white clover, and with a little moisture, herds-grass and others, soon take possession. Give them the same protection in the field and a little dressing of manure to start with, and we get at once a sheep pasture of the best sort that will improve indefinitely. This need not hinder sowing orchard grass or other, that will give greater bulk and suit better for mowing, but for sheep pastures these are not a necessity. Nor in either case, let me repeat here, is it *necessary* to plough deeply or manure heavily before seeding. The seed on the surface and the manure on that, I do not assert is the best thing to do, I do not know that it is not; but it is a good thing,—a great deal better than nothing.

N. B. WORTHINGTON.

Spontaneous Combustion in Hay.

There are doubtless many farmers who have experienced sudden and destructive conflagrations in their hay lofts, which could not be ascribed to any exterior agency. Barns have been known to burst into flames, almost without warning, save perhaps a significant odor, for a few days previously, around the places where the hay was stored, and a summer's harvest is swept away in as many minutes as it has taken days to gather it. These unexpected conflagrations are generally accredited to "tramps" who have made the hay loft their sleeping resort, but it is now asserted that such calamities are frequently due to the spontaneous combustion of the hay, a circumstance theoretically quite possible, but rarely considered. Abbe Moigno, in *Les Mondes*, gives the following as the theory of the phenomenon: Hay, when piled damp and in too large masses, ferments and turns dark. In decomposing, sufficient heat is developed to be insupportable when the hand is thrust into the mass, and vapors begin to be emitted. When the water is almost entirely evaporated, and decomposition continues, and the hay becomes carbonized little by little; and then the charred portion, like peat, peat cinders mixed with charcoal, sulphurous pyrites and lignite, etc., becomes a kind of pyrophorus, by virtue of its great porosity and of the large quantity of matter exposed to high oxidation.—Under the influence of air in large amount, this charcoal becomes concentrated on the surface to such a degree that the mass reaches a temperature which results in its bursting into flames.

The preventives for this danger are care that the hay in the lofts is kept dry, that it is well packed, and that it is stored in small heaps rather than in large masses.—*Scientific American*.

*For the Maryland Farmer.***GRAPE CULTURE.**

BY D. Z. EVANS, JR.

When properly conducted, grape growing is profitable, but it requires, now, a thorough knowledge of the business in all its details to make it pay with the production nearly equal to the demand, and the consequent low prices for ordinary fruit. Though there are some rare exceptions, it pays to have only first-class fruit to market, then you are sure of the highest prices, and the cost of marketing it is no more than on poor or ordinary fruit.

In the first place, we want suitable soil, and almost any land which will produce a good crop of corn. This should be thoroughly worked in a good crop of corn the year before it is desired to put out the vineyard, so as to have the soil in prime order, free from weeds and grass. As early in the spring after this as the ground will admit of, have it well plowed and harrowed, and then strike out deep two-horse furrows ten feet apart, running twice in the same furrow to clean it out. Across these just drawn, draw other and one-horse furrows ten or twelve feet apart, (according to the variety.) At the intersection of the furrows make holes sufficiently large to contain the roots nicely without cramping them, and about twelve inches deep.—Having trimmed the vines properly, both the roots and the top, plant them nicely, spreading the roots well, and commence by putting on the fine earth first, so as it will pack around the roots and insure their growth. When the holes have been filled up, press the soil well around the vines with the feet. A very good plan, and one we have adopted with nearly or quite all kinds of our vines before planting, is to wet the roots well with a mixture of water and earth with a little admixture of manure.—This does much towards giving the plants an early start, and insures the ground adhering at once to the roots.

The first season we cultivate both ways, in corn, and also the second season, if the soil has been liberally supplied with manure, as it should be. In the fall of each year we dress up the vineyard nicely, hoeing all the grass away from the vines to prevent mice from troubling them, and throw a light one-horse furrow to them to secure them from the cold, as well as to prevent them from drying out with the high winds. In the spring the ground is plowed as usual and the ridge gets cultivated down.

The first year's growth of wood is left to grow unchecked, merely taking care to keep the shoots well tied up to the stakes to prevent them from

being broken or torn off during cultivation. As soon as the leaves have all fallen in the fall, we cut each vine to from 3 to 4 eyes, and let but one good, stout cane grow the second year. In the fall of the second year we cut back again to 3 or 4 eyes, letting two of the strongest shoots grow to form bearing canes or arms for fruiting from. The third season, if the vines have been properly attended to, the vines will bear a part of a crop, and the vines can, if handled with care, be fruited on the stakes, the wire trellis being put up the following winter or spring, the first crop paying part of the cost of wire, stakes or posts, labor, &c. This is one of the ways to economise on the farm, and when there are so many leaks on the farm it behoves all to stop a few of them, or at least study economy.

Unless you especially wish to do so, it is best not to grow corn entirely between the grape rows, but vary the performance by growing some other crop or crops. We grow many or all of the different kinds of market-garden vegetables in the vineyards, and also strawberries. After the second or third bearing year we find that the vines require all the soil to themselves, despite good manuring, for, with a lot of other things in the same piece of ground you cannot give thorough cultivation; which we consider of major importance in successful vine culture, where fine fruit and profitableness is concerned.

Value of Agricultural Publications.

We have at the present day many judiciously conducted periodicals, and no farmer who has a proper pride in his profession but takes one or more agricultural papers.

These productions from practical farmers, amuse, interest, and instruct.

They excite us to increased exertion; inspire us with confidence in undertakings which otherwise would be abandoned upon the first failure; give us plans the most approved for all our farm buildings; make suggestions which are often of the greatest importance: indeed they act as "a friend in need," as a wise councillor, a judicious adviser.

The farmer must obtain all the information possible by reading, and then reflect, reason, decide and practice in accordance with his best judgment.

L. G. W.

Mr. B. Moulton, of Muskegon, Mich., has a peach orchard of fifteen acres, from which he harvested this year 4,000 baskets, and a vineyard of eleven acres, from which he has gathered 8,000 baskets of grapes. It is but a few years since the land was reclaimed from the forest.

The Influence of Horticultural Societies.

I note your words touching the influence of associations devoted to Horticulture, commonly termed Horticultural Societies, and on the reading of it, there comes to me one of my old ideas, which has in it perhaps all the benefit of the Horticultural Society, and far more of humanizing influence upon a community at large. It is not the forming of Horticultural Societies according to the old form, but a gathering together of all the families of a neighborhood once a month say, for the purpose of associative conversation—examination and instruction upon the culture and varieties of Grains, Grasses, Horses, Cows, Mules, Fruits, Vegetables, and the culinary arts of Domestic Economy and Rural Life labors. These meetings are to be held upon the afternoons or all-day time. The whole of a family is to attend, old and young. Whatever is wanted for the food of the young of each family should be packed in a basket, as well as some extra, so that the gathering at the house of a member shall not become a tax upon him and his, in the way of entertainment, other than of room and courtesy.

A chairman and secretary should be elected at each of these meetings, to hold office until others are elected. These officials to hold office, and so when the next meetings occurs be on hand to open and arrange the order of proceedings. Discussions of an hour or two in the house, or, in good weather, some pleasant location upon the grounds of the owner, then a ramble of some over the grounds, and of others through the household.—And again meeting for the lunch and some more words of associative ideas, touching items of practical daily labors, and the values of plants, etc. I have assisted in organizing several such associations, and find they are always successful and beneficial. When a reporter or some ready writer of the meeting will make record of the gist of the sayings, the county papers are always ready to publish it, and so ideas given at the meetings become those of thought to the readers as well as to the attendants. Much more could be written but I think all now requisite is to suggest the subject and its adoption.

F. R. ELLIOTT.

78 Duane Street, New York city.

Clover does well on a poor soil, if a good catch is secured and plaster used; but it does much better on a rich soil, paying well on the richest of land.

Dont let the stock stand out in a cold storm.—It is a loss of fuel.

For the Maryland Farmer.

FLORISTS AND NURSERYMEN.

I have been taking a hasty look among the Green Houses and Nurseries of the District of Columbia and Washington.

The people of the cities, in this country, are great great lovers and consumers of fruits and flowers—peculiarly so. Mr. Clare Ford, when he was with the British Legation at Washington, said once, in the hearing of the writer, "that the Americans were a great people for fruits and flowers—that he could see more flowers and fruits in the American cities in a month, than in English cities in a whole year."

This fact is an encouragement to professional growers, as well as amateurs.

JOHN SAUL.—To a large and well kept nursery of choice and rare fruit trees, of both Foreign and American sorts, he adds a large number of Green Houses and Conservatories, filled with rare and exotic flowers and shrubs; with a fine, well supplied store, for the sale of seeds, bulbs, flowers, and fruit trees.

GEORGE GLORIAS.—Mr. Glorias, is one of the popular and reliable florists of this city, who has green houses and a fine store, where he supplies choice and beautiful flowers and plants, in all forms and styles.

EDMUND CAMMACK.—Mr. Cammack is one of the oldest and most popular of Washington florists, who is prepared to furnish plants and flowers of rarest kinds, and in large variety, of cut flowers, and in pots.

D. S. C.

PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At the monthly meeting held in October the following were elected officers for ensuing year:

President, W. L. Schaeffer; Vice Presidents Caleb Cope, Robert Buist, J. E. Mitchell, and S. W. Noble; Corresponding Secretary, Thos. Meehan; Recording Secretary and Treasurer, A. W. Harrison; Professor of Horticultural Chemistry, J. C. Booth; Professor of Entomology, S. S. Rathvon; Professor of Botany, Thomas P. James.

LIQUID MANURE IN THE GREEN-HOUSE.—Manure is best applied to plants in pots in a liquid form. That obtained from sheep droppings or from cow dung (with a little soot added if it can be had) is preferable to that obtained from chicken or pig manure, guano or even horse droppings; as it is less stimulating and does not cause such an excessive leaf and stem growth, or produce as serious injury if incautiously applied.—*American Garden.*

For the Maryland Farmer.

DOES BUTTER DAIRYING PAY?

BY D. Z. EVANS, JR.

This question has been asked scores of times by farmers, and will continue to be a question as long as there are farmers. The answer, abbreviated, to such a question is, simply, Yes. Following on the heels of the first query naturally comes the one—how can I make it pay?

The only way to make butter dairying pay well is to produce an extra brand, and then no difficulty will be experienced in disposing of it at a very fair price, for no matter how full the market be of poor or ordinary grades of butter, there is always plenty of room at the top, and customers are not long in finding out first class brands and sticking to them as long as the standard is maintained, and paying a good round price for the same. How many farmers are making several hundred pounds of butter (?) annually and are getting from twenty cents to forty cents for it, oftener the latter price than the former? With the exception of having a better class of cows and the addition of more care, cleanliness and system, it does not take much more work to produce a brand or grade of butter which will command from forty to sixty cents per pound than it does to produce a grade which sells slow at twenty and twenty-five cents. Now, suppose it costs twenty cents to produce a pound of ordinary butter and twenty-five cents is obtained for it and forty pounds are weekly produced in the dairy. The amount, clear, is but two dollars. Take a better grade of butter, which costs twenty-five cents to produce, and commands from forty to fifty cents per pound, and we find, say the same number of pounds are produced in the dairy, the clear amount to be from six to ten dollars. Does not this prove, that under proper management, butter dairying pays?

As it may interest and instruct the readers of this periodical to know, in dollars and cents, what a Chester county, Pa., dairyman did with his herd of twenty cows, I will give it, taken, as they are, from an account which he kindly furnished me in writing.

The results given below were obtained by Mr. R. H. Hodgson, near New London, Chester county, Pa. He has an excellent farm and nice spring house, and thoroughly understands his business.—His herd consists of pure bred and grade Guernsey (the best butter breed in this country), Jersey and Alderney, all of which are well attended to and well fed. Want of space prevents me from giving his method of dairy management and attention to his fine animals, but I will do so at a near future.

1873, Jan.	made 140 lbs.	@ 50 cts net.	\$70.00
" Feb.	" 160 "	@ 50 cts "	80.00
" March,	" 196 "	@ 50 cts "	98.00
" April,	" 222 "	@ 50 cts "	111.00
" May,	" 294 "	@ 40 cts "	117.00
" June,	" 404 "	@ 33 cts "	133.32
" July,	" 393 "	@ 33 cts "	129.69
" August,	" 335 "	@ 39 1/2 "	132.10
" Sept.,	" 350 "	@ 40 cts "	140.00
" Oct.	" 375 "	@ 39 1/2 "	148.12
" Nov.	" 248 "	@ 40 "	99.20
" Dec.	" 143 "	@ 45 cts "	64.50
Total,	3160		\$1323.43

To this we add \$137 for calves sold and, at a low valuation \$200, for milk given to hogs, and we have \$1660.43 as the total, or an average of \$83 per cow per year. The butter averaged, the selling price, net, leaving out calves sold and milk given to hogs, forty-two cents per pound, the year round. Is not this a fair showing of what can be done in the butter dairy business, when backed by intelligence?

Translations from French for Maryland Farmer.

TRIAL AT SOISSONS.

It appears that competitive field trials of implements are very common, a gold medal and \$200 being offered to the best harvester, without distinction of origin: also to foreign machines, first prize, a gold medal and \$160, second prize, silver medal, and \$120. To French machines, two prizes same as for foreign machines, a silver medal, and \$80 is offered for the best combined mower and reaper.—Eighty dollars are put at the disposition of the jury to be distributed among the workmen who shall show the most skill in setting up, mowing and directing the machinist, and jury is to consider the general construction, rapidity of setting up and taking down, quality and proper use of materials, solidity and facility of repairs, ease of oiling and controlling, draft, character and height of cut, manner of sheaving: the committee will buy 3 machines selected from the models and resell them at auction at the place of the trial: other arrangements of a like liberal character are to be made, reduction on railroads, furnishing of horses to exhibitors, etc.—This is for the trial at Soissons: another is specified for Saint Michel on Sunday: still other exhibitions are to be held, agricultural and horticultural! France is spurring forward in her agricultural interests.

IRRIGATION.

The employment of irrigation as an agent to increase agricultural productions is held of so much importance by the French government that the Minister of Agriculture has offered prizes for five years to those who will make the best use of the water of canals for the purpose.

AMERICAN MACHINES IN FRANCE

Among the American harvest machines mentioned in the French journals we see the "Wood," which appears to have taken several prizes and gold medals, the "Sprague," Johnston & Kirby mower combined, and which has also received several prizes and gold and silver medals.

HAND AND MACHINE MOWING.

At a trial of machines at Gray (Haute-Saone) to enable the numerous cultivators who crowded around the experimental field to compare hand and machine mowing, three of the best mowers in the section were assigned a piece of ground which they mowed by hand in 3 1/2 hours, whilst a "Wood" machine did the work in 45 minutes. *

For the Maryland Farmer.

WILKINSON'S PATENT SUBTERRANEAN VENTILATION, FOR RURAL BUILDINGS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

"STABLE ECONOMY."

I have read numerous works and articles under the above heading, and have generally found in all the stereotyped instructions with regard to stable construction, that "*stables should be well drained and perfectly ventilated*," but no reliable instructions are given how either is to be done. I find in the "*Farmers' Home Journal*," of Nov. 12th, a long article on this subject, and all that pertains to drainage and ventilation in said article are the words I have quoted above; yet it is extracted from that time honored turf journal, the "*Spirit of the Times*."

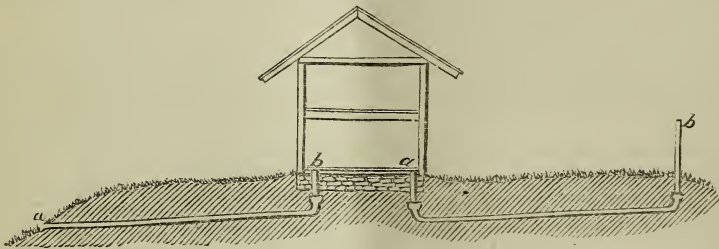
The article contains some sound and useful remarks, and is probably the best the "*Journal*" had at hand on the subject, but to my mind it lacks much of meeting the necessities of the *Times*. At no period has it been so important to provide in

capacity and dimensions to meet individual requirements, none of which embrace the modern characteristics of proper drainage and ventilation so universally admitted to be all-essential.

These characteristics, the architect who has devoted his life to their study, should understand better than the proprietor, who perhaps builds but one stable in a lifetime, or the country carpenter who perhaps builds from one to three annually during the period that he devotes to building.

Although the architect nominally charges the small percentage named for furnishing full drawings and specifications, yet, if he is master of his profession, he should be capable of economising material and construction to an extent that will often save his commission many fold.

A very mistaken impression is entertained even by very intelligent gentlemen in rural districts.—They erroneously infer that it will be the purpose and policy of the architect, should he be employed, in order to swell his commission, to design a plan as expensive as he concludes the proprietor will bear, and that he will be actuated by the short sighted policy, that the job in hand will probably



Wilkinson's Patent Subterranean Ventilation, for Rural Buildings of every description.

stables, in the fullest possible degree for the hygienic condition of equines. We have at this time, a large number of horses in the country, the individual value of which far exceeds the average value of the farms, even in the old and long settled States; and several of these very valuable animals may be seen in the same stable, in the district for which the "*Journal*" is the Horse organ.

The fabulous value of a numerous stud of such animals, will fully warrant the proprietor in seeking the very best plan on which to construct the stable, which is to be their place of abode the greater portion of the year, for their lives; even if said plan should cost the Rural Architect's regular rate of charge, which is but $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the cost of the structure, for full plans, and specifications for construction. But this is not the course generally adopted by those who build stables, even for the most valuable animals in the country: but stable after stable is erected mainly after the plan of such as are generally used, only modifying the

be the last for said proprietor, hence he will make all he can out of him.

In a professional experience of 40 years, I long since learned that no architect could prosper who pursued so "penny wise and pound foolish," and so short-sighted a course. His direct line of interest lies in economising in every department of the work as far as practicable, and in promoting the interest of the client in the fullest degree, that he may secure the confidence and influence of each client, through whom he will be able to obtain other work and directly promote his own interest. I have a number of clients, who are acknowledged to be as sagacious and successful men in their business as there is in the community in which they live, who would not build even a sty or a manure shed without calling to their aid an architect.

A learned jurist once remarked, that "the man who acted as his own legal counsel, generally had a fool for a client"—and my protracted observation has established the conviction, that the remark ap-

plies with equal truth and force to such as attempt to be their own architects, without having studied the art.

It will be my purpose in the sequel of this paper to explain how "*perfect ventilation*" may be secured in a stable or other rural building in which there is no artificial heat, which I have illustrated in the preceding diagram. I shall confine myself to ventilation only, and will make drainage the subject of a future paper.

We will assume that it is very desirable to maintain in the stable, whether for equines or bovines, a comfortable temperature, and a uniform one at all seasons, as nearly as practicable. If this desideratum is granted, it must be admitted that it is impossible to attain it by the ordinary means of ventilating stables, viz., by admitting air at any temperature that may chance to exist externally, on the windward side of the building, and allowing it to escape on the leeward side; or even by closing the openings on the windward and admitting air on the leeward, and depending on vertical openings, shafts, or flues for egress. In either case the air will be of whatever the external temperature is, but the latter, if it were practicable to maintain the ingress from the leeward, would of course have the great advantage of guarding against the very injurious effects of draughts, or currents of cold air over, and around the animals.

Unless the number of animals in a stable is so large that the animal heat emanated and exhaled is sufficient to rarify the air in the stable materially, its vertical egress cannot be maintained, but the cold air meeting the warmed air in the flue, will cool and condense the exhalations of heavy, vitiated, carbonic acid gas, and cause it to settle to the floor where lying animals must re-inhale it; on the evil consequences of which I need not comment.

In short, it is utterly impossible, in cold weather, to change the air in the stable, by either of the modes described, without objectionably reducing the temperature.

I have carefully tested and observed the effects of the modes described, of supply and exhaust of air in stables, as well as all others recommended by ventilating experts, and all that I was capable of devising myself, and all were unsatisfactory, until I hit upon my patented under ground system of ventilation.

I consider it infinitely superior to all other systems: as it operates automatically and equally well in cold and warm weather; and if the walls of the stable are constructed, as they may be, so that the external temperature does not affect the interval,

by the conduction of the walls, the temperature of the stable may be maintained day and night, summer and winter, at about the temperature of the earth, or about 60°; and draughts, or currents of air in the stable, are unknown, and impossible.—The action of this system of ventilation is dependant on that potent and reliable law of nature, gravitation, which is as changeless as its omnipotent Author.

The direction of the supply in winter is the reverse of that operation in summer.

By reference to the diagram, which represents a vertical section of a building, of the ground forming the site, and two ventilating ducts, it will be seen that there are two pipes "a b" laid in the ground below frost and solar influence, one on either side of the building, and each opening into it.

One is placed on the upper, and the other on the lower side of the building: that on the upper, has a fall towards it, and the other, from it. When the external temperature is higher than that of the ground, the air in the duct in the ground being cooler and more dense than that above ground, flows by gravitation down into the building, which if properly constructed, may be considered as an enlarged connection between the two pipes, or ducts.

There being no other suitable place of escape, or egress of air from the building than by way of the descending pipe, it, after circulating in, and ventilating the building, escapes through said pipe and flows out, as shown, on the surface of the ground.

In the cold season, when the ground is warmer than the air on the surface of the earth, its heat is radiated by the interior surface of the ducts, and absorbed by the air in them, and as soon as the air is rarified, it ascends into the building through the lower duct, thence again from it, and escapes at the upper end of the duct, on the upper side of the building. By simply adding a movable piece of pipe to the egress duct in the stable, the air may be exhausted from any point between floor and ceiling.

Thus it will be apparent to the reader that we may not only by this effective system, have the air admitted perpetually at the temperature of the ground, but we may exhaust from the building the coolest, or the warmest, whichever may be most desirable; and the air being supplied in the warm season from an elevation, must be pure and the earth being a purifier, it must be admitted to the building in its native purity.

This is the mode of ventilation used in my patented dairy room and ice house combined, for which it is admirably adapted.

J. WILKINSON,

Rural Architect, Baltimore, Md.

An Essay on Puccinia or Blight in Grain.

Read before the Academy of Science by John Feast, Florist, Baltimore.

This, from the earliest ages, has been and proved to be a source of much trouble and loss in crops, and not confined in one section of the globe, but all over the world; it is a word of obscure meaning, possibly derived from the Greek word *euxa*, (closely packed), in allusion to the crowded manner in which the little plants are placed. Puccinia-graminis is a plant too well known to farmers under the name of blight. It attacks the stem and leaves of all kinds of grain, at the first having the appearance of orange colored streaks, which afterwards assume a deep chocolate brown color. The little plants chiefly attack the parenchyma immediately below the stomata with which the cuticle abounds, each individual is so small, that any stoma on a straw will produce from twenty to forty fungi, and every one of them will, no doubt, produce at least one hundred reproductive particles, so that the progeny from a single stoma will be enough to infect a whole plant. The period of germination is supposed not to exceed more than a week, and as the reproductive particles are exceedingly light, they are wafted aloft in the air, which is thus loaded with clouds of animated dust, ready upon the first favorable occasion to carry blight and disease into all the neighborhood, and upon examination a piece of infected wheat stem, highly magnified, will show the disease as stated.

Agriculturists may examine not only their crops, but the origin and advances also of all those obstacles which nature has opposed to the success of agricultural labor, as if to awaken the energy of reason and to reward the farmer for the exertions of his intellectual faculties by the satisfaction of surmounting them.

Botanists have long known that the blight in grain is occasioned by the growth of a minute parasitic fungus on the leaves, stems, and glumes of the living plant. Felice Fontana published in the year 1767 an elaborate account of this destructive pest so injurious to grain, and since that time modern Botanists have given figures both of grain and grass affected by it, using high magnifying powers in their researches, which have been of much benefit to the farmer and the world at large.

In order, however, to render explanation more easy to be understood, it is necessary to premise that the striped appearance of the surface of the straw, which may be seen by the naked eye, is caused by alternate longitudinal partitions of the bark, the one imperforate, and the other furnished with one or two rows of pores or mouths, shut in dry, open in wet weather, and well calculated to imbibe fluid whenever the straw is damp. Pores or mouths similar to these are placed by nature on the surface of the leaves, stems and branches of all perfect plants, a provision intended, no doubt, to compensate in some measure the want of locomotion in vegetables. A plant cannot, when thirsty, go to the brook and drink, but it can open innumerable orifices for the reception of every degree of moisture, which either falls in the shape of rain and dew, or is separated from the mass of fluid always held in solution by the atmosphere; it seldom happens in the driest season that the night does not afford some refreshment of this kind to restore the moisture that has been exhausted by the heat of the preceding day. By these pores, which exist also on the leaves and glumes, it is presumed that

the seeds of the fungus gain admission, and at the bottom of the hollows to which they lead they germinate and push their minute roots. No doubt, they may be traced into the cellular texture beyond the bark, where they draw their nourishment by intercepting the sap that was intended by nature for the nutriment of the grain; the grain, of course, becomes shrivelled in proportion as the fungi are more or less numerous on the plant, and as the kernel only is extracted from the grain, while the cortical part remains undiminished. The proportion of flour to bran in blighted grain is always reduced in the same degree as the grain is made light. Some will not yield sixteen lbs. of flour to two bushels of grain, and it is not impossible where the grain has been so completely robbed of its flour by the fungus, that if the farmer choose to incur the expense of threshing and grinding it, bran would be the produce, with scarcely an atom of flour for each grain.

Every variety of grain is subject to this disease, but it is observable that the spring sown is not so liable to be damaged as when sown in the fall, and rye less than wheat, probably because it is ripe and cut down before the fungus has had time to increase in any large degree. Some kinds of wheat are effected more than others, like the bearded wheat, which has its straw full of pith, is less subject to blight than the beardless kinds; also, it has long been admitted by some farmers, though scarcely credited by Botanists, that wheat in the neighborhood of a barberry bush seldom escapes the blight. Some observing men have of late attributed this very perplexing effect to the farina of the flowers of the barberry, which is in truth yellow, and resembles in some degree the appearance of the rust, or what is presumed to be the blight in its early state. It is, however, known to Botanists that the leaves of the barberry are very subject to the attack of a yellow Parasitic fungus, larger, but not otherwise different from the rust in grain.

It is believed by some of the best writers on the subject, that the yellow and dark colored blight are different species of fungi to begin early in spring, and first to appear on the leaves on wheat in the form of rust, or orange colored powder; at this season the fungus will, in all probability, require as many weeks for its progress from infancy to puberty as it does days during the heats of autumn; but a very few plants of wheat thus infected are quite sufficient, if the fungus is permitted to ripen its seed, to spread the malady over a field, or indeed over a large space of country. The chocolate colored blight is little observed till the grain is approaching to ripeness; it appears then in the field in spots, which increase very rapidly in size, and are in calm weather somewhat circular, as if the disease took its origin from a central position. It may happen that the fungus is brought into the field in a few stalks of infected straw, uncorrupted among the mass of dung laid on the ground, previous to the sowing of the seed, and if experience shall prove that uncorrupted straw can carry the disease with it into the field it will cost the farmer but little precaution to prevent any mixture of fresh straw from being carried out with his rotten dung to the field; also, to search diligently in the spring for young plants of wheat infected with the disease, and carefully to extirpate, as well as all grasses, for several are subject to this or a similar malady, and needs but care, industry and perseverance in some measure to check the ravages so destructive to the crops in all countries.

WOODLAWN FARMER'S CLUB--FAIRFAX.

DECEMBER MEETING.

On Saturday, the 19th, we took passage with Captain Hollingshead, steamer Arrow, and landed at Mt. Vernon, to attend the regular monthly meeting of the Woodlawn Club, at the splendid farm of John Ballenger, near Mt. Vernon, and adjoining the fine farm of Dr. E. P. Howland. The day was fair, and the attendance of the farmers and their wives and daughters large; Chalkley Gillingham, president, and N. W. Piersons, secretary.

DISCUSSION ON FERTILIZERS.

John Ballenger read an instructive article from an Agricultural Journal, containing useful information on this subject.

D. S. Curtiss read and commented upon a very instructive article from Liebig's works, on potash, rain water, and the impoverished lands of Virginia—showing that continuous cropping with wheat and tobacco for a century, had exhausted the potash, so that nothing but pine and sedge grass could grow.

The President concurred in, and affirmed these views and facts.

He also read articles from the *Maryland Farmer* in favor of the use of clover and mulching.

C. Lukens read a brief report in favor of barnyard manure, next bone-dust and lime; also, advocating thorough plowing and farming. The larger portion of the society expressed the opinion that stone lime was better than shell lime for farm purposes.

Ed. Mason read a brief statement on the use of lime and the various modes of applying it—in four forms.

Albert Harrison read an article from the *Agriculturist*, showing that large crops had been raised for years on the same land without manure, but by the thorough cultivation of the soil. He stated his own experience as being favorable to liberal use and plowing in of clover.

C. Boughton advocated top-dressing of turf and fields with manure, and plowing in clover. He believed mulching and top-dressing the best mode.

Dr. Davis gave an account of how his father renovated a worn-out farm, in central New York, and made it fertile by rotation, top-dressing, and clover plowed in every three years.

SUPPER ANNOUNCED.

A sumptuous supper was provided by the wife and daughter of our host, which was highly enjoyed by all.

CLOVER.

C. A. Whitbeck gave a satisfactory account of his successful practice with clover in New York and Ohio for wheat.

C. Lukens gave notice of the meeting of the horse society.

D. S. Curtiss stated his experience and observations in evidence of the great value of plowing in clover to restore and preserve the fertility of land, and as a preparation for wheat.

It was the conclusive opinion of the society that clovering is a profitable way to improve lands.

REPORT OF CRITICAL COMMITTEE.

Ed. Mason made a flattering report of the fine

management and condition of Mr. Ballenger's farm, giving it as the opinion of the committee that he was one of the very best farmers in the county.

C. Lukens also made a brief report on the creditable condition of the stock on this farm.

John Mason wanted to know why we did not oftener hear from the Ballengers in the meetings of the society, when their superior and successful farming would be so instructive. He also spoke in favor of the use of ammonia and alkalies, lime and ashes, in farming, and suggested the mode and practice of grinding and dissolving shells in potash for compost.

S. Pulman gave an account of large corn he had seen in Pennsylvania years ago—on which much of it presented two and three ears to the stalk, where lime was used.

STONE LIME.

Suggestions were made by different members in favor of procuring limestone from up the river and bringing to this neighborhood to be burnt, as being preferable to transporting the burnt lime. A committee of three, to take the matter in hand, was appointed, consisting of R. F. Roberts, C. Lukens and V. Baker, with instructions to report at next meeting.

Critical committee for next meeting—Samuel Pulman, Albert Harrison and V. Baker.

On rotation of crops a committee of four was appointed, to make individual reports, consisting of W. Walton, Stacy Snowden, L. B. Stiles and R. F. Roberts.

DAIRY COWS AND FEED.

The secretary read an extract from a newspaper on the subject of imitation butter, and about middlemen for the sale of milk and a depot.

D. S. Curtiss read a statement from J. Wilkinson, correspondent of the *Maryland Farmer*, showing the large advantage of cooking food for milk cows over feeding it uncooked, taking less feed and affording more milk and more flesh.

Some members questioned whether the advantage of cooking the feed was equal to the cost of steaming; and the majority thought it was.

After some conversation on various matters, the place for the next meeting was settled to be at the pleasant residence of R. F. Roberts, near Alexandria, on the 16th of January next, when the public are invited to attend.

D. S. C.

Sugar and Orange Crops.

Houma, Par. Terrebonne, La., Dec. 14, '74.

To the Editors of the *Maryland Farmer*:

Is there such a plant as the Pink Violet? If so, where can any be had? * We have just made a finish of our sugar crop, with something over five hundred hhds. It is a fine crop, but prices are so low that there is no *big money* in it. Since our riot of last January, the negroes have worked very well, as yet, we hear of no threatened out-break for this coming January. Wages cannot well be reduced any lower. We have paid this year \$13.00 per month for men, and board. The orange crop this year in this part of the State is the largest ever known. They are selling here for two cents a piece gathered, or five dollars per thousand, on the trees.

There is no such thing in this market as the Pink Violet.

THE
MARYLAND FARMER,
A STANDARD MAGAZINE

EZRA WHITMAN,

Proprietor.

Col. S. SANDS MILLS,

Conducting Editor.

Col. W. W. W. BOWIE,

Associate Editor.

OFFICE—145 WEST PRATT STREET,

Opposite Maltby House,

BALTIMORE.

T. C. DORSEY, Business Correspondent.

D. S. CURTISS, Washington, D. C.,
Correspondent and Agent.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY 1, 1875.

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John Merryman,
A. M. Halsted,
Ed. L. F. Hardcastle,
D. Lawrence,

John Carroll Walsh,
John Lee Carroll,
Augustus L. Taveau,
John Feast,
John Wilkinson,
John F. Wolfinger,
C. K. Thomas,

RENEWALS.

We beg leave to remind our friends that this number of "THE FARMER," is the first of a new volume. It is therefore an appropriate time for *renewal of subscriptions*, and we are emboldened by the late increase to our subscription list, as well as by the many commendations of our journal, to ask each old subscriber to exert his influence and send us one or more additional recruits to our army of supporters. A slight effort will enable each one to do so, and thereby place us under still further obligations to them. Let it cost what it may, we are determined to double our list of subscribers, knowing that the improved usefulness of the magazine will command the continued support of those who subscribe for 1875.

SUBSCRIBE FOR 1875?

We want every subscriber to the *Maryland Farmer* and every postmaster in this and other States to act as agent for us, in adding new names to our now swelling list, and let us roll up a goodly number of new names for 1875. It will require very little effort on the part of our friends to accomplish this. Only call your friends and neighbours attention to the *Farmer* and we are sure you will benefit the farming community in giving them the best, and cheapest paper in the country, and confer a favor upon us.

It is the oldest continuous running agricultural magazine in the State.

It is one of the best agricultural magazines in the country, adapted to the wants of the farmers. No one disputes this fact!

A *liberal commission* will be allowed all who interest themselves in our behalf.

It is, without exception, the best advertising medium to reach the manufacturers, merchants, farmers and planters in this and the States South!

Its contributors cannot be excelled by those of any other magazine of its kind!

It is printed on fine paper and with clear type, and will be embellished with new and useful engravings, such as will be of interest to our readers!

Its subscription price is only \$1.50 per annum—within the means of all—and to those who will send us five or more names, we will only ask \$1 per year, and an additional copy to the getter up of the club. *Subscribe now! Subscribe now! Subscribe now! 3 months free.*

The State Poultry Association.

The annual Exhibition of the Maryland State Poultry Association will be held in Raine's Hall, commencing on the 5th of January and continue four days. From the great number of coops already provided, and the large number (600) in addition which the Society have ordered, the officers must have assurances of a grand display. The list of premiums is the most liberal and the largest ever offered in this State. We not only sincerely hope, but feel confident, the exhibition will prove the finest and most successful Poultry Fair that has ever been held south of New York.

OLD COMMISSION HOUSE.—We call attention of planters and farmers to the advertisement of Messrs. C. C. & R. H. Hyatt. We believe it to be the oldest Commission House and one of the most extensive and reliable in this city. Those interested should make their acquaintance.

Agricultural Fairs, Horticultural Societies and the Maryland Jockey Club.

These most useful institutions, the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies have been unusually successful the past season. They have, almost without an exception, had very fine exhibitions and been attended by increased numbers of intelligent people who seem to take a deep interest in the cause of agriculture and its kindred pursuits. It is an admitted fact that every vicinity in which they are held, shows great improvement in a short time thereafter, in the better cultivation of the soil; in the increased amount of machinery and improved implements on the different farms; in the improved breeds of stock; in the greater amount of better sorts of fruits and vegetables, and last, though not least, in the manifestation of an awakened interest in the adornment of the homesteads with flowers and ornamental trees, &c. They should then be encouraged by all our citizens. We are glad to see that all classes and occupations are becoming alive to the importance of countenancing and fostering such material aids to success in farming and horticulture, as these institutions are, beyond a doubt.

In this connection we may also congratulate our friends upon the brilliant success of the Maryland Jockey Club, which has brought to our view for inspection and comparison, the finest horses in the country, and thereby fired the public mind with a spirit of emulation to produce as good if not better in our own State. The farmer who looks on those superb animals, comes at once to the conclusion, of the Lincoln vicar, Rev. John King of England, that speed trials on the turf conduce to the improvement of the breed of horses, and he makes up his mind to breed his own horses instead of buying. To raise his saddle horses and driving horses by breeding his best mares to high bred stallions, so as to secure animals of speed, stamina, gentleness yet full of spirit, and beauty of form. Such an animal would cost perhaps \$150 to be bred and kept in good condition up to three years old, and the owner would be sure he had a sound horse, well acclimated. On the other hand to buy such an one it would cost \$500 with all risks of all sorts to run under the rule *caveat emptor*, besides that of change of climate and water, &c.—We have no doubt that this Jockey Club will be the direct means of improving our horses and indirectly adding to the aggregate wealth of the State, hundreds of thousands of dollars, by not only the large sums expended by strangers in the City of Baltimore each race meeting, but chiefly in the number of improved breeds of horses which will be bred and reared that never would have been, but

for the inspiration generated by the exhibition of the indomitable prowess by high blooded steeds on the Pimlico Course.

The Black Bass of the Upper Potomac.

The memory of that enterprising gentleman who years ago introduced the splendid *Black Bass* into the waters of the Potomac, ought to be embalmed in the hearts of every lover of "brain-food," and every owner of soil lying on or near that river.

It seems to me, that such luxuries as the Potomac offers, in shell fish, ducks and other fowls, with the splendid *White Bass* or Rock, the superior shad and delicious, *Black Bass*, besides, Perch and an innumerable variety of other fish, which crowd its waters, would be a great inducement for persons, who desire a comfortable home, to purchase lands in Montgomery and other counties of Maryland, and in Virginia, which border on this noble stream, that has its banks graced with the ancient cities of Georgetown, and Alexandria, and the rapidly increasing City of Washington, the magnificent Capital of the United States. It seems to me, these advantages, would be a large item added to the cheapness and general fertility of the lands in the region alluded to, in attracting the attention of all who prefer homes, in the heart of civilization, with every appliance of comfort and luxury with the amplest means of transporting their crops to the largest and finest markets in close proximity, and with Baltimore not an hour's ride off, by rail, to the inhospitable clime and out of the world, far West.

These reflections were suggested perhaps by enjoying some of those delicious Bass, sent to us by a valued friend in Georgetown, who not only indulges in the good things of this life but likes to see his friends participate.

The largest of these fish weighed nearly six pounds. They were captured in the Potomac above Georgetown, by that Prince of Restaurant keepers, and Nimrod of the water—Mr. Richard Fugitt, of Georgetown, from whose elegant establishment, friends sent me the past summer many delicate viands and I cannot speak too highly of his *cuisine*.

It may be as well to state for the information of those unskilled a Pisciculture that I received those fish ten days after they were taken, and they were alive and played in the fresh water in which I placed them, for a short time before having them killed. So much for skill and aquariums. B.

Do not leave implements scattered over the farm, exposed to snow, rain and heat.

Grasses Suited to Light Sandy Soils.

We are requested by a correspondent from Wil-
liston, S. C. to express our opinion as to "what kind
of grass seed is best adapted to a light sandy soil,
to take the place of a worthless grass and weeds,
which grow in profusion."

On very sandy soils none of the cultivated grasses
flourish, until the soil has had humus supplied and
lime or other renovator in the way of manure, to
give the sand some fertility. This can be done by
using the southern field pea as a green manuring
with lime, bone dust, plaster, &c.

But we should think clover and timothy, prefer-
able to any other of the cultivated grasses, and
would do well on a soil that produces "worthless
grass and weeds in *profusion*." Plow under that
profusion of weeds and grass when green and be-
fore they have matured their seed—keep the land
clean with the harrow, destroying all new vegeta-
tion, until the middle of September or first of Oc-
tober (later would do in Carolina) then sow two
gallons of Clover seed and one of Timothy per
acre with some fertilizer. After the seed comes up
sow one bushel of plaster mixed with three of salt,
broadcast, per acre. We think this would insure
a fair crop of grass. Such was our experience
many years ago on just such a light sandy soil,
though our land had little or no vegetation on it;
had it had we should have done even better, altho'
we were gratified as it was with the result. Two
years after, the same field produced a fine crop of
nice tobacco. In the South and Middle States,
the grasses, if sown late in Winter or early Spring,
on sandy or light soils, as is the custom generally,
will perish in the Summer's heat, unless the season
is uncommonly favorable. But if sown in early
Fall, the plants get well rooted before the hot suns
of June, and are enabled to resist the burning heat
and usual droughts. The tops may shrivel up and
die but the roots will put out again when the rains
fall.

PREMIUM TOBACCO.—We acknowledge the re-
ceipt from Mr. D. Morgan White, several samples
of beautiful tobacco, which took the first Premium
of fifty dollars at the 7th Grand Fair of the Vir-
ginia and North Carolina Border Agricultural So-
ciety, held at Danville, Va., last November.

This tobacco was grown by T. J. Smith, Esq.,
Oxford, N. C. It is of fine length of leaf, fair tex-
ture, uniform in color, of light yellow. The leaf-
stems are small. It has but little aroma, though
the smell is pleasant. It shows that the old North
State, can boast of growing the finest of tobacco,
as well as having issued the first declaration of In-
dependence.

DEATH OF GENERAL TENCH TILGHMAN.

We deplore the death of this accomplished gen-
tleman and distinguished Agriculturist. GENERAL
TILGHMAN, was a native and resident of Talbot
county, Maryland. He was a gentleman of the
old school, a scholar, an eloquent speaker and sound
practical writer upon agricultural pursuits. He
was at one time the President of the United States
Agricultural Society, and thus his reputation as a
zealous and able friend and advocate for the pro-
gress and prosperity of this great interest, became
national. His loss will be deeply mourned by a
host of friends, to whom he endeared himself by
his kind and genial manners, and by the agricul-
turists of his State and the nation, his services will
be remembered and his memory cherished for his
devotion to their interests.

Death of Dr. E. Adam Vannort.

It is our sad duty to record the death of Dr. E.
A. Vannort, who died at his residence near Haines-
ville, Kent county, Md., on December 12th, in the
35th year of his age. The deceased, in addition to
his practice, was an earnest and progressive farmer,
in which he seemed to take great pride. He was
one of the founders, and at the time of his death
Secretary, of the Worton Agricultural Society, in
which he took a lively interest. He was also a fre-
quent contributor to the agricultural literature of
the *Maryland Farmer*, and his articles evinced
much ability, and were always acceptable to the
reader. Being of an active turn of mind he had
reached a high position in the popular Order known
as the Knights of Pythias, at one time holding a
distinguished position in their Grand Lodge, he was
also active as a Patron of Husbandry, among who
he was highly and justly esteemed. His loss will
be felt not only by his personal friends but by the
entire section of his State. We shall miss him as
a friend and a contributor.

Death of Col. Chapman Billingsley.

This venerable Senator of Maryland, died at his
residence in St. Mary's county, on the 9th of De-
cember, at the advanced age of 71 years. The
Senator was well known to the people of his State,
and was recognized by all as one of nature's no-
blemen. He died ripe in years and honors.

THE GREEN HOUSE.—Messrs. Wagner's adver-
tise their first-class Restaurant. The *Green House*
will be *ever-green* in the memories of all who once
partake of its cuisine and its exhilarants.

DIGEST OF CROP RETURNS.

We are indebted to the energetic officers of the Agricultural Department for advance sheets of the forthcoming monthly report in reference to two of the great staples of the country, and we make the following brief extracts, which are of importance to our readers:—

CORN.—There has been an increase in area of corn the present season, but a decrease of aggregate product. The enlargement of breadth planted was confined to the Gulf coast and the region north of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi. Cut-worms were quite injurious in the West. Chinch-bugs, after devastating wheat-fields, attacked corn vigorously in many localities; and not content with the abundance of this great American cereal, are reported in some instances as addicted to a potato-diet, and even to tobacco-chewing. The quality of corn is at least an average in all of the Eastern States except Maine and Massachusetts; in all the Middle States except Delaware; in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Texas; and in all the Western States except in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska.

The yield is less than last year on the Atlantic coast as far south as Virginia, except in portions of New England; larger from North Carolina to Florida, and in Mississippi and Texas, and in Ohio and Iowa; the reduction in other Western States ranges from 4 to 57 per cent. The apparent reduction (which may be slightly modified in the final estimate) is about 120,000,000 bushels; the aggregate of local estimates exceeding but slightly 800,000,000 bushels. As the crop of last year was not an average one, the present product is not more than four-fifths of the yield of a good corn-year.

COTTON.—The cotton-product of 1874, as estimated by the correspondents of the Department of Agriculture, somewhat exceeds three and a half millions of bales. The yield per acre is reported less than in 1873 in most of the States. The weather for ripening and gathering the top-crop has been very favorable. The reports are nearly unanimous in stating that the proportion of lint to seed is large.

COMPLETE CATALOGUE.—The very handsome and elegantly gotten up catalogue for 1875 of Messrs. Chase Brothers & Co., Rochester, N. Y. It has eight fine and highly colored wood engravings, illustrating grapes and flowers. They have also issued a beautiful chromo printed in seventeen colors, called *The Little Florists*, representing a delightful rural scene crowded with flowers,

Cordial, Bitters, &c.

We were pleased to receive from Mr. H. A. Chalvin, manufacturer of Cordials, Bitters, &c., 100 Bleeker St. New York, a specimen of his superior Cordial Bitters, named "*Montana*," for which he received a Medal at the late Exhibition of the Mechanic's Institute of Baltimore. We applied the best teste that of taste, and found it a delightful beverage, but so invigorating, a little goes a good way. We should judge it would promote digestion and be a fine appetizer.

This is a new industry in this country and should be fostered. It is one of immense value in Europe, where it is a highly important branch of business. The manufacturers get their materials from America, then why should not capital be invested and employment given to thousands of poor people out of employment in manufacturing at home the natural productions of our forests and mountains. Mr. Chalvin's cordials and bitters are made from the native wild flowers, herbs, heels, nuts, fruits and aromatic roots with which our forests and mountains abound. Every thing which can be made to compete with foreign manufacture and products, is so much wealth retained within our own borders. Why should we send a million dollars yearly, abroad to buy *Maraschino*, *Curracoa*, and other cordials, when we have *Montana*, and can make others as good as they can in the Old World; and cheaper, because we have the materials on the spot and no duties to pay?

Southern Maryland and District of Columbia
Agricultural and Mechanical
Association.

We are gratified to learn from the late report of the officers of this Association, to the stockholders, that the prospects of success are flattering. They have purchased 200 acres of eligibly situated land, called Mount Ararat, on the Baltimore and Poto-mac Railroad, in full view of the Capitol, being only a few miles from it. The position is high and affords a fine view of the surrounding country.

Within easy access of Baltimore and Annapolis with the large and growing cities of Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria, to draw its financial resources from, we cannot but think under its energetic management, it must prove as we earnestly hope it will, a perfect success.

MALTBY HOUSE.—This popular Hotel, presided over by the courtly Col. Hogan, is unsurpassed for its elegant accommodations, at most reasonable charges. Our friends visiting the city cannot secure more home-like quarters anywhere,

For the *Maryland Farmer*.

1875.

MR. PUBLISHER, EDITORS, CO-CONTRIBUTORS
AND READERS OF THE "MARYLAND FARMER":

I cordially wish you all a *happy New Year*.

We all have great reason for mutual congratulation that so few of our number have, during the past year, been summoned to our next stage of existence, and that we have been permitted to enjoy so large a share of the blessings of our Heavenly Father, as have been our lot. Let us all strive to be duly grateful, and endeavor so to live in the future that we may better deserve the mercy and beneficence of God.

OUR NATIONAL PRODUCTION.

Whilst certain districts of the rural portion of our vast country, so varied in climate and production, have suffered from the destruction of flood and drought, and from devouring insects, and our cities and villages have many of them been fearfully scourged by the devouring element, *fire*; and from sundry causes, nearly every vocation throughout the country is suffering from the effects of the unprecedented financial and commercial panic, yet we have in the country at large a surplus of the necessities of subsistence.

We are fortunate too, that in more prosperous days, enterprise has extended internal improvements to that degree, that we have facilities for transportation by which the products of districts having a surplus may readily convey it to their most remote, less fortunate neighbors, who have lost their crops by drought and insects, and who must starve in this land of plenty, but for these means of supply. It becomes us as a nation professing to be Christianized, to awaken without delay to a full sense of our duty to our fellows; and we who have been blessed with full harvests and have food to spare, should resolutely inaugurate every requisite means by which the needy throughout the country shall be promptly supplied.

Let us all apply the golden rule in the execution of this imperative duty, and endeavor to place ourselves in the condition of the destitute who have had their all destroyed by those terrible scourges, the grasshopper and the drought, and endeavor to realize how important it is that those poor, starving thousands should immediately become the objects of our bountiful Christian charity.

It will be a lasting shame and perpetual disgrace to this favored nation, if we allow it to be said in truth in our history, that we suffered any, even one of our citizens to *starve* or *freeze*. This work is one in which we must all participate, and we must

be willing to make some sacrifice to aid in a cause from the furtherance of which we cannot be excused. Humanity demands it, and by that we are to understand, the spirit of human kindness demands it. Who among us is ready to admit by his acts that he is void of that most exalted element of our nature.

I hope that there will not be any among the citizens of favored Maryland, or its rich and populous Monumental city, who will attempt to shirk their duty in giving to the helpless needy of those districts where every available means of human subsistence has been destroyed, on the plea that we never had so many needy among us as we now have, and we must aid them. Whilst this is true, and all who have means must extend aid to those among them who have not, we must do more; we must not let any starve of the thousands scattered over thousands of square miles, who are destitute of food, and are dependent on that received from the charitable at a distance; for they have few if any, affluent among them.

The settlers and inhabitants of the worst devastated districts of the West, are mainly indigent pioneers. Their crops are all gone, and it is a long time before others can be grown; and they have no means with which to migrate to a land of plenty.

Let us all do as we would be done by, and help them according as God has prospered us. We can each do something.

J. WILKINSON,
Baltimore, Maryland.

There have been numerous organizations in different parts of the country, having for their object the collection of subscriptions to be sent to the sufferers in those districts which have been so severely scourged by the GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

We copy the following from *Vick's Floral Guide for 1875*, which presents just what many who would willingly contribute to the crying need of the sufferers in the devastated districts are in search of, viz., a reliable and safe medium through which to reach the sufferers with their contributions.

This medium offered by James Vick, Esq., we can recommend to all who may avail of it, as an excellent one, and thoroughly reliable. We hope that it will be availed of by all who have the means to give.

No object of charity ever presented more imperative claims on the charitable than the sufferers in those districts where all vegetation, all food for both man and beast has been destroyed.

THE GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

It is sad that in this land people suffer and even starve for bread. That there should be a lack of food in the fertile West seems as strange as it is sad,—

That hundreds and thousands in portions of Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota and Iowa, will suffer and die before spring, from want, without aid from abroad, is true, as we know, not only from published reports, but from scores of private letters from customers, now lying before me, and from persons whom nothing but the most urgent necessity would induce to make known their personal wants.

Thousands of good, industrious people, with the laudable desire to make homes for themselves and families, have taken up land in the West. Removal, the purchase of implements and a little stock, and the expense of living until a crop is secured, usually exhausts the resources of these persons. They expect to endure privations for a time, but with ordinary success, a few years of trial and endurance usually place them in comfortable circumstances.—Unfortunately the past two years swarms of grasshoppers have swept away at once the crops and hopes of these deserving people, while we have “bread enough and to spare.”

We look at the pile of letters before us; we have read every word of the sad stories, from strong men, enduring women and suffering children, and would like to feed them all, but what can one do for so many? Last year we supplied all who applied for seeds for half price, or no price. No one, we think, was denied. This year the need is more serious.

FOOD IS WANTED TO FEED THE HUNGRY FAMILIES UNTIL CROPS CAN BE GROWN. So, we thought perhaps some of our customers would like to help a little, if they knew an easy way to forward funds. We therefore propose to receive from our customers, or others, whatever money they may appropriate to this good work, acknowledging the receipt of all sums, and giving an account of its disposal, and will add FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS as our subscription to the amount forwarded.

EARLY IN THE SPRING SEEDS OF ALL KINDS WILL BE NEEDED, for everything that can sustain life will be consumed. We will be glad to appropriate to this purpose any money that may be sent us for this truly God-like work, also adding FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS to the fund.

If all of our two hundred thousand customers, who can afford to do so, and who have not had an opportunity to aid the sufferers in any other way, will send us a little, how much can be done to make sad hearts happy?

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1875.—This unsurpassed Floral guide for January is received. And is one of the most complete ever issued by Vick, or “any other man,” It contains over 100 pages, 500 beautiful and life-like Engravings, descriptions of more than 500 of the best Flowers and vegetables, with directions for culture, &c. It is published quarterly, at the nominal price of 25 cts a year.—It is really a gem, and a fitting adornment for any drawing room.

If the Grangers will devise a plan to dispense with fences mainly, the good they will do will much more than offset against all the harm done by Railroad monopolies.

A MEETING OF MILK PRODUCERS.

On the 18th of December last, pursuant to a call in the city papers, one hundred or more of the milk producers who supply Baltimore city with “*pure country milk*,” and a number of the city dealers, or “middle men,” convened at the General Wayne Inn. The meeting was duly organized and the necessary officers elected. The grievances and desires of both producer and dealer were stated, in apparently a very kind, amiable and candid manner: and the speakers concurred in the opinion that no interest known to them needed reform for the advantage of both producer and consumer more, if as much, as did the *Milk Interest*.

The producers and venders who claimed to make and sell pure milk, made on farms, from good wholesome food, stated that milk made from swill and garbage, and sold as “pure milk,” was so abundant in the market, and was sold at such low rates, that they could not compete with them and get cost for their milk. All claiming to sell “*pure milk*,” and there being no legal, competent inspection, all, very unjustly, stood on the same footing in the eyes of consumers. It was claimed that legislation on the subject was much needed, and that a competent inspector should be appointed, who should be required to inspect milk whenever and wherever he might find it in transitu, on stands, wagons or anywhere else, even in the hands of consumers, if fraud cannot be otherwise prevented.

Committees were appointed by the meeting for the several districts which send milk to Baltimore, with instructions to each committee to convene the producers in the respective districts, and from each to elect five delegates to represent their constituents in a meeting to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of January, 1875, at the General Wayne Inn, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to which the meeting adjourned.

A committee of dealers in the city was also appointed, and desired to represent themselves in said meeting, and a confident hope was expressed that there would be a concert of action, and that the thorough, much needed reform might soon be inaugurated and be inviolably and perpetually maintained.

The disgraceful fact has long been incontrovertably established by the statements of many of the most reliable members of the medical fraternity of this and other countries, that a large percentage of the deaths of young children in cities is attributable to the use of *poisonous, impure milk*. It will be very creditable if Baltimore should be the first city to do away with the crying evil. So may it be, and very soon; and the noble example here inaugurated soon be universally adopted.

PUBLIC ROADS.

The State Society Road Committee held a meeting at the close of the regular monthly meeting of the State Agricultural Association at the Rooms corner Fayette and Eutaw Streets, December 3d, Dawson Lawrence in the chair. General Geo. H. Stewart reported that he was engaged in securing reports from the different County Commissioners of their respective road expenses for the past five years, but had not completed his labors for the action of the Committee.

Wm. Webster, the Secretary was in favor of having the repairs done by the farmers themselves as much as possible, and expects to submit to the Committee the details of the Baltimore county system which was in successful operation a few years ago, but repealed in consequence of political agitation upon the subject.

Dr. M. Merryman thought the more thoroughly we placed the repairs in the hands of competent engineers, who made it their business, the better the roads would be attended to, in the way of grade and durability, and gave instances of disregard of the true principles of road building in the construction of certain roads in Baltimore county.

Mr. Lawrence read a paper in which the following features were submitted to the Committee as suggestions for the formation of the new law :

1. That we have too many roads : not too many for use but too many for repair ; for where the use will not justify the outlay necessary for a good road, any outlay to keep a poor road is an injudicious expenditure, and such outlay by reason of its smallness must be often repeated, its effect on the road will be only temporary, at best of times positively injurious, and the result after all only a passage way, hubby in winter, muddy in spring and soft weather, dusty in summer, rutty in autumn, a fast friend of ignorance and isolation, and sterility, and demoralization, and everything inimical to the farmers welfare, a successful foe to science, to the arts of progress, to rural culture and refinement, to the social enjoyment which break forth in the laugh of the young and the smile of the old, and a stringent blockade of rural energy, combining the evils of a siege and a pestilence.

2. That it is better to have a few smooth hard roads, good at all seasons of the year, than many poor ones *bad* at all seasons.

3. That it is better for farmers to keep up private roads as private outlets, to smooth hard highways, being principal routes of travel, than to compel the public to travel over the numerous highways now laid out, which reflect great discredit upon the people who tolerate them,

4. That travel should not only be over smooth and hard roads good at all times, but free from the obstructions of division gates.

5. That the public should not be compelled to travel over bad roads 12 months in the year and heavily taxed for the misery of using them.

6. That the time to repair a road, like everything else, is the moment it requires it, without waiting until the corn is planted or the wheat harvested, and the new crop put in, or the old mare gets shod, or the old hens all set, and all the little jobs done about the farm—without waiting until the weather gets too cold and too wet, and the days too short to do farm work advantageously—such a system resulting in the dumping of a few loads of great rocks in the ruts and holes, and the hurried covering of the same with an inch or two of mud, an impediment to travel whilst it remains, to be removed by succeeding rain falls, leaving the stones so many obstructions instead of helps, to travel.

7. That the application of science to road repair was a necessity of the times and somewhere in the new system, the supervision of the highways by competent authority should be provided for.

8. That farmers should be required to perform a certain amount of work on the highways in payment of the road tax.

9. That each School District should have a Road Supervisor without compensation, and the Supervisors of a county should form a Board of Road Commissioners having exclusive control of the roads, thus preventing the peddling and junketing of road officers in reward for the wholesale bribery of voters at a grog-shop, or some other infamous business usually considered by the politicians of our day a necessary preparation for the duties of office.

10. That any person feeling aggrieved by the condition of the roads should have the privilege of working them, and be paid for said work, under certain restrictions.

11. That a permanent gang of one or more hands with necessary implements should be employed to work on the roads after their early spring repair by the farmers, to remove loose stones, break up stones for repairs to be used as soon as needed, build culverts and bridges, and perform other necessary work under the direction of the proper authority.

12. That, as an item of detail, no water should be permitted to cross over the road, the same being carried under the road by bridges and culverts wherever needed, and the roads should be made convex, and highest in the middle, with suitable side trenches for the water, and a pathway by the fences for the convenience of foot passengers.

13. That arrangements could be made at small cost, for the planting out on the road side of evergreen, fruit and deciduous trees, at proper distances, to the end, that comfort and not misery might be experienced by the traveler.

After a short discussion of some of these suggestions, the Committee adjourned, to meet at the close of the next meeting of the State Society, which will be held January 7th, at 12 M.

MEETING OF THE MARYLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society held its December meeting on 22d of December, at the rooms of the Agricultural Association—Ezra Whitman, Esq., president, in the chair, and T. C. Dorsey, secretary. There was a goodly attendance of members both professionals and amateurs, who all evinced an unabated interest.

The first business transacted was the reception of the report of the Executive Committee. It reviews the work of the past year, and refers to the opening display held in September last at Lehman's Hall, as exceedingly gratifying and a decided success. The financial results were as follows:—From 277 members, including 11 ladies, \$820; sales of tickets, \$457.60; other sources, \$140.50, making total receipts, \$1,418.50. The expenses were \$931.84; premiums, \$448.50, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$37.76. During the year ten meetings of the Society were held previous to the exhibition, at several of which addresses were made by talented and practical men, and displays of horticultural productions were also at most of them.—With the success of the past year we think we may with much propriety look forward to the coming year as one in which much good will be accomplished, and florists, fruit-growers, gardeners and amateurs all will rejoice at the success of the Maryland Horticultural Society.

The report is signed by E. Whitman, Chairman; W. D. Brackenridge, J. Mowton Saunders, John E. Feast, R. W. L. Rasin, James Pentland.

The Secretary then read a communication from Ezra Whitman, president of the Society, addressed to the Executive Committee, urging the taking of prompt action looking to the erection of a grand Horticultural Hall, in Baltimore city, similar to those erected in other cities, and expressing the belief that aid can readily be secured from the enterprising people of the State and city to consummate the undertaking. He considers the final success of the Horticultural Society to depend greatly upon the erection of a suitable hall, as there is no building in the city adapted to the needs of our annual exhibitions, of which fact the committee are fully aware.

Mr. Grove made some interesting remarks in reference to the proposition to build the hall, and expressed the belief that a united effort on the part of the members would enable them to accomplish the object. Mr. Wilkinson also approved the suggestion, and had no doubt that all the money necessary could be secured. After some further discussion, on motion, a committee of three—E. Whitman, Wm. H. Perot and B. T. Grove—was appointed to consider the subject of the building of the hall.

Mr. Rasin congratulated the society upon the success of their First Exhibition, and doubted not that all felt proud that a horticultural society had been established in the State of Maryland. By the aid of a small number of our citizens in patronizing the exhibition our amateur membership's subscriptions of \$3 has enabled us to pay our liberal premiums and liquidate other debts, thereby evincing their tastes for horticulture and encouraging us to make greater efforts. To be successful in this

it is necessary to increase our members, and thereby our funds. Is it asking too much of a city like Baltimore to increase this membership from 300 to 1,000, which would enable us to give an exhibition in September next that will rival that of Philadelphia and Boston, and of which Baltimore could be justly proud? To effect this object, on motion of Mr. Rasin, four committees were appointed to solicit an increased membership from the citizens of Baltimore. The committees were named as follows: North Baltimore—John A. Needles, John E. Feast and Henry Mudge; South Baltimore—E. D. Hallock, A. J. Pritchard and John Wilkinson; East Baltimore—Charles Reese, Andrew L. Black and S. Sands Mills, Jr.; West Baltimore—James Pentland, B. F. Grove and V. A. Klinefelter.

Mr. Rasin expressed the hope that the members of the Society would exert themselves actively in its behalf, and that the ladies would not be overlooked by the committee in the discharge of their duty.

FERNS was announced by the chair as the special subject for discussion for the evening, and members were invited to participate.

Mr. Brackenridge, florist, then took the floor, and gave a highly interesting account of the family of ferns, as also an incidental account of his travels in different parts of the world, especially in the islands of the Pacific Ocean, where ferns most abound, some of them, he stated rising to a height of from 40 to 60 feet. The fern family, he said, comprised 2,060 described species, and he himself had superintended a collection of 600 species over thirty years ago. He esteemed above all others of the family, for its great beauty, the adiantum genus. We regret we are not able to give a more full report of the remarks of Mr. B., as they were delivered without notes. It will be remembered that Mr. Brackenridge accompanied Captain Wilkes exploring expedition as botanist, &c., and edited the volume on ferns for that expedition.

Mr. John Feast, correspondent Secretary of the Society followed and stated that Ferns he considered as one of the most beautifully developed families throughout the whole vegetable kingdom, their light, elegant feathery foliage being peculiarly graceful and attractive. They might be classed in three divisions—as tender, half hardy and hardy, and now elicit a great share of attention. He spoke at length of the cultivation of ferns, and described the different species and their characteristics.

Remarks on the same subject were offered by Messrs. James Pentland and B. F. Groves.

At the conclusion of the discussion, on motion, a vote of thanks was tendered to Messrs. Brackenridge and Feast for their efforts to enlighten the meeting.

The subject of PEARS was nominated for discussion at the next meeting, when Mr. Marden and others will participate, whereupon the meeting adjourned.

LICE ON PIGEONS.—Lice on Pigeons may be destroyed by dusting sulphur under the feathers. A little paraffin oil, or vegetable or mineral turpentine, poured on the perches, soon expels them.

Farmers, now is your time to subscribe for the New Year, 1875.

Vick's Floral Premiums.

James Vick, of Rochester, New York, the world renowned Florist, offers the following exceedingly liberal premiums as an evidence of his earnestness in fostering a love of the beautiful:—

"For the purpose of encouraging the culture and love of flowers, I authorize the officers of every State and Territorial Agricultural Society in the United States (and where there are two prominent Societies in one State, both,) and the Provinces of Canada, to offer, in my behalf, the following premiums:

For the Best Collection of Cut Flowers,	\$20.00
Second Best, " "	10.00
Third Best, " "	5.00
Fourth Best, " "	Floral Chromo.

The offer is made to amateurs only, and the flowers to be exhibited at the regular Annual Fairs. The awards to be made by the regular Judges, or by any Committee appointed for the purpose. When only one collection is exhibited, the Judges may award the first, or any other premium, according to merit, but the exhibition must be a creditable one, and if not so, in the opinion of the Judges, no premium to be awarded. The flowers not to be made up in bouquets, but exhibited separate and named. I shall not consider this offer accepted by any Society, unless published in the regular Premium List, so that all may have an opportunity to compete. The money will be forwarded by Draft on the Bank of New York City, as soon as the award is made known to us, either to the officers of the Society, or to the persons obtaining the premium.

I also authorize the officers of EVERY COUNTY SOCIETY in America to offer one of my FLORAL CHROMOS for the best exhibition of Cut Flowers. Now let us have some grand exhibitions of flowers."

Feeding Gold Fish.

A valued correspondent writes us the following on feeding gold fish:

I notice page 240 of the August *Farmer*, an article on the "Care of Gold Fish." My Grandson has had an aquarium for the last two years. It is supplied daily with hydrant water. The fish are *never fed*, and a finer family, some fifty, cannot be seen.

Therefore say to persons having aquariums, don't feed your fish—give them plenty of fresh water.

BEAUTIFUL CHROMO.—We have received from Mr. James Vick of Rochester, N. Y., his last and in our opinion the *best*, of his series of large and unsurpassed chromos. It is chaste in design, and brilliant with bright and beautiful flowers together with a winter scene in the back-ground. It is therefore appropriately called, *Winter In-Doors and Out*. It is a charming picture and worthy to grace the walls of every drawing room in town and country.

Sheltering Manure.

The author of "Chester County notes," in the *Country Gentleman*, discusses the question as follows:—

Much has been written of the comparative value of manure from under the barn, and that from the open yard. Many farmers will tell us that they can see to a furrow where the manure from under a shed was put, and that one load of it is worth two from the open yard. I do not deny it, but must claim that this difference is not all due to shelter.—The manure from the stables is always thrown under the barn, and is better than that formed in the open yard, not only because more grain is fed in the stables, but also because it contains less straw and no cornstalks.

In many cases the manure in the open yard is washed by rain water from the roof, which is allowed to run off and take with it the strength of the manure. If other things are equal, and no more water gets into the yard than falls there, and none of this is permitted to run out, I do not imagine there will be much difference. If we fed all our straw and cornstalks we could then do without an open yard, but so long as we depend on our stock to incorporate them with the manure, we must have more or less open yards.

Several of my correspondents complain of a loss to their horse manure by heating and "firefanging;" this is because they keep it by itself. If mixed with the manure from the cows or cattle stalls, this trouble will be avoided. Manure from the horse stables and sheep pen should be mixed with the less active manure from the other stables, and the whole placed where it will be well trodden down. I find it a good plan to place the horse manure around the water trough.

Important to All Owners of Short-horns.

The National Association of Short-horn Breeders, which recently met at Springfield, Ill., having entrusted Alex. Charles, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with the work of procuring complete statistics of all Short-horns now living in the United States and Canada, for publication in the report of their proceedings, we would urge upon every one of our readers who are breeding Short-horns either upon a large or small scale, to send in prompt and careful returns, and those who have not received blanks for that purpose, will be furnished them free of charge promptly, on application to Mr. Charles. Short-horn men will please give this their very earliest attention, for by so doing the forthcoming report of the American Association of Breeders will be made the most valuable and interesting publication ever issued in this country.

HORTICULTURE.

SPRING HINTS.

January, in many parts reached by the *Maryland Farmer*, brings thoughts of gardening such as no other month does. Trees are to be planted, lawns made, and grounds got ready for fruits and vegetables.

It is a good idea to get things ahead, and yet it often happens that work is done too soon—so soon that things are really set back instead of brought forward. In tree planting for instance, there is nothing gained if after setting them out they are to stand for a month or two in a cold cutting windy place before the time comes for them to push into leaf, and this is especially the case if the tree has no more roots than it ought to have, or perhaps as much as very often happens in a transplanted tree. But if the planting is to be done in a very well sheltered place the sooner the work is got off hand the better. In the exposed places it is best to leave planting till we know by experience in our several locations that it is about time for the bursting of the leaf. Some writers have regular work cut for every month, but it is clear from the suggestions we have made that there is no fixed time in the month for anything. It depends not only on one's latitude, but on one's location also.

But besides the surrounding circumstances as regards shelter from winds and protection from frost, the nature of the soil will help to decide when to plant. It is very essential to have the earth broken fine, and packed well about the roots of the transplanted tree, and this cannot be done unless the ground is in a fit state to be broken. If when a mass of loose earth will break to pieces when struck by the back of the spade, it will do to plant, but if it merely flattens the lump leaving a sort of spade mark after the blow, it is best to wait awhile.—Some soils, especially sandy ones, will have these breaking up characters much earlier in the season than others; and of course in these, planting can be done sooner than in others.

Then some things to be planted out have rather tender roots, and delicate constitutions, and nothing is gained by setting out plants of this character till the earth becomes quite warm. This is true of flowers and vegetables. If set out while the ground is cool the roots get a check from which the plant is long in recovering, and a plant set out later will often get ahead of the earlier one. A very lit-

tle experience in gardening, with this hint in mind, will soon teach one when the ground is warm enough for any kind of gardening work, or when it is not likely that cold rains or late snows will again cool the ground. Those who are but beginners and have not had this experience, might use the thermometer, and not think of planting beans, or setting out tomatoes, or such like things which suffer from cold, till the glass indicates at least 45 degrees.

The very best of hints for the season that we can give, is to think well before hand what we have to do, and how we are going to do it—and then we shall be able to see just how much we can do to advance things, without doing anything before it is best to do it. We admire a horticultural writer who continually insists that the greatest elementary want he finds among those engaged in gardening is the want of common sense—and after all this means but little more than due reflection and forethought.

Woods and Forests.

The tree question seems to be agitating the whole world.

In an address, delivered at Melbourne, by the President of the Royal Society of Victoria, a word of warning against the waste of the forests is uttered. A few years ago the colonists would have ridiculed the notion that the forests could be exhausted, but now, as the speaker said, the bad effects of the indiscriminate stripping of the mountain ranges are becoming visible, and he points out that unless the timber be replaced by planting the climate will suffer. With the example of Italy before their eyes, the Australians would, indeed, be blameable if they exposed their country to the same disaster. Perhaps they are aware of this, for they have a Government Botanist, who, as we are informed, is introducing and rearing large numbers of forest trees, which will not only replace the waste, but prove useful in themselves as wood or bark. Among them are the Crock Oak, the red Cedar, the Hickory, and varieties of Fir, and these may be expected to flourish when the Eucalyptus, the Mimosa, and other comparatively useless trees shall have disappeared.

Plant fruit trees well, care for them, and get good crops.

EARLY VEGETABLES.

A "warm garden" is not very well suited to Celery, Cabbage, Horse Radish, Turnips, and other fall crops. Nor is it at all favorable to Raspberries and many fruits, most of which indeed prefer to grow where the ground does not get over warm in summer time, but for early vegetables, a site which has a dry bottom and lies to the southeast is an excellent thing to have.

Most early vegetables do not require a great heat to bring them forward, and this is particularly the case with Radish and Lettuce. If the earth is kept from freezing, and the sun heat alone bring them forward several weeks sooner than if the seed is not sown till the winter is wholly gone. For this purpose mere boxes or frames sloped to the sun, and covered with straw mats or boards when there is danger of frost at night, is enough to bring on these vegetables considerably earlier than other people get them in the ordinary way, and especially are they earlier if the ground slopes to the sun as we have suggested. Asparagus, Rhubarb, Beans, and the vegetables that are prized for their earliness all come on much sooner on these sunny slopes than many persons have an idea of.

Of course every one can have no selection of a site. Most have to take whatever spot they can get, but it is often to be noted that when people have a choice they do not select wisely. We have rarely seen a garden which was selected with the view to the best place for spring, summer or fall vegetables, though this could often be made to suit all.—It is one thing or the other—a good spring or a good fall site. These suggestions therefore may help some people—we hope at least in regard to early vegetables.

Market Gardens of Paris.

According to the *Garden*, the market gardens of Paris are enormous, and give an idea of the enormous consumption of vegetables by the Parisiens. It says that

"The ground cultivated by market gardeners in and around Paris amounts to over 3,000 acres. It is stated that 360,000 glazed frames, and more than 2,000,000 cloches, are employed in the production of vegetables alone. The annual amount expended for manure is said to be £72,400, and the total receipts from the sale of vegetables and other productions of the market gardens to exceed half a million sterling—a sum probably much under the mark."

Cloches are small glasses, sometimes round of one piece, and at others square and framed. They are not much used in America, but it is questionable whether they would not pay for their introduction. They are covered over the tender plants always at night, and cold days, lifted when the weather is warm.

Roman Vegetables.

A correspondent of the *Pictorial World* says:

"On my return from a drive on the Janiculum I drove through the Campo de Fiore Piazza, where in the evening is collected the fruit and vegetables in wholesale. Tuesday night is the best for this remarkable sight, and Wednesday morning, too, is equally interesting, for it is the principal market day, and then the goods are disposed of to the retail dealers of Rome, and carried to the various market stands and shops throughout the city.—The fruits come into town in wagons, and are packed in *cofani*—a sort of basket; they are covered over carefully with leaves, and have layers of leaves between the fruits. As I entered the city, I saw these great carts driving in slowly from the Campagna heavily loaded with *cofani*. It looked like a Bacchus *feſta*, for the leafy baskets make a picturesque load. Some carts were loaded with sacks of potatoes, and other carts full of *erbazzi*, which word comprises all the numberless species of greens the Romans delight in—Broccoli, Cauliflower, Lettuce, &c., &c.—for the list is legion; and other wagons, again, were packed with *coconeri*, water-melons, and *poponi*, or little melons, cantaloupes, and the like."

The correspondent goes on to speak of the quantities of fruits and vegetables consumed in Rome, which he seems to think prodigious.

EVERGREENS.

Evergreens are of two classes, the resinous or cone bearing and the broad-leaved. The former are more suited to a northern climate, but as they recede south they gradually give out until but few are found in a wild state, and in cultivation they prove indifferent in comparison with other things. The Hemlock, and Fir and Spruce on which the northern gardener so much depends for his best effects, grow but poorly in the Southern, Atlantic and Gulf States. The white and Austrian pines are on the whole the best, but even these lose considerable of their northern luxuriance. The Juniper does itself no credit, and of the Arbor Vitæ, the Chinese, which is indifferent north, is far the best for southern growth.

The broad-leaved evergreens, however, do no good as a rule in the north, while in the south they find themselves completely at home. The evergreen *Euonymus* which every now and then is winter killed everywhere north of the Potomac, finds itself perfectly at home, and English laurels, bay, and hollies would no doubt do as well if they were generally planted. The South has an admirable field open to it for this kind of gardening, and no doubt when things shall have become more settled in our southern country, and general attention devoted to gardening, as it doubtless there will, the South will be as famous for its distinctive feature of broad-leaved evergreens in gardening as England now is.

THE PAMPAS GRASS.

One of the most striking ornaments of gardens that have been introduced of late years is the Pampas grass. Even the leaves alone have a striking effect. Where the plant has some age and vigor the leaves reach a height of three feet or more, and curve over gracefully at the ends. Some well grown stocks make mounds as it were of over three feet in diameter, and being of the same color as the lawn seem to break up the regularity, and give an undulating surface. The flowers are in spikes often eight feet high, though from three to four is most commonly seen, and the flowers which terminate them are likened, and not without cause, to large Ostrich feathers. These are a silvery white when they first open, but as they mature become white as snow. They preserve their appearance well after being cut, and thus make excellent parlor ornaments. Even small plants usually throw up one or two spikes, but it is only by age that the real beauty of the Pampas grass is seen. As many as fifty of these majestic spikes have been produced from one plant, and when in this condition it is doubtful whether anything in American gardens attracts more attention. The great object is to get these plants large and strong. In the Northern States they are not quite hardy, and there they have to take them up and preserve them in cellars, or other protective places. This transplanting checks them considerably, and never permits of the plants being as strong as when they can be kept over continuously in the open ground. In the Middle States this is often done by covering the plants, so as to afford a little protection. Some merely put a small load of dry leaves over the plants, and then lay brush wood around to keep them from blowing away. Others put a box over, and then some material over the box to keep out the severest frost. In this way they often do very well though occasionally rotting from warm damp.

This matter of protection may seem out of season at this time. It is rather the planting than the protecting season. But still when one knows before hand how a thing is to be treated when the Fall comes, it is an element in the choice of the location where the plant is to grow.

A MAMMOTH RADISH.—Mr. Lilibridge of Laurel, Prince George's Co., Md., raised the past year a radish, measuring 15 inches in length, and in circumference at top, twenty four inches; about three inches from the bottom, the circumference was 12 inches, and its weight, nine and a half pounds.

Do not refuse to make correct experiments, in a small way, of many new things.

Trees and Plants of Auctioneers and Pedlers.

An English paper has the following well timed suggestion as to bargain hunting in the tree line :

"Mr. Stevens, of Covent Garden fame, must do a roaring trade as an auctioneer both in bulbs and plants, and immense quantities of the former especially pass through his hands. But in all large towns a similar method of disposing of these roots is now adopted, and during the autumn months nothing is more common than to observe notices pasted on the walls announcing that Mr. So-and-So will offer to public competition a choice and valuable assortment of Dutch Flower Roots, just imported, &c. Of course, ordinary purchasers of bulbs are caught by this notification, and instead of, as hitherto, getting their collection of bulbs from their local seedsman, they prefer to go to the sale, and, bitten with the auction fever (an epidemic that is more dangerous to the pocket than to the body), buy lots of things that under an ordinary system of purchase they would not have, and which, being to them comparatively worthless, or what is equivalent thereto, not needed, represent in reality so much waste, and, however advantageous the sale may have proved to the consignee, it is anything but a gain to the buyer. Few persons make purchases at sales of any description who do not buy something that eventually become to them so much lumber, and the buyer at bulb sales seldom is better off, as, to purchase what he specially desires, he has also to buy much that is to him rather an incumbrance than a source of profit; and thus the money so spent represents so much lost capital; whilst, had it been judiciously employed in the purchase of choice selections of things really needed, even if nothing were saved, the sum expended would have proved a profitable outlay."

One would hardly suppose such suggestions needed, were it not that one hears on every side people grumbling who say they have been "cheated," and yet who go on getting "cheated" continually, over and over again. We confess to feeling a little sympathy with the peddling fraternity. They have many weary miles to travel, and many a day sell not a single thing. People far away in places distant from the great centres would often not have a plant or fruit but for these hard working people.—Of course with their difficulties they cannot sell first-class articles at low figures. They have to do the "best they can." No one would expect to get a first-class overcoat, or a grand silk gown, from one of these poor people, as cheaply if at all, as from a first-class house. One could hardly do it with a ten cent dipper, and why should it be expected of trees. Instead of being cheated, we suppose people generally get the worth of the money *under the circumstances*.

The use of absorbents to hold the urine of animals in their beds, and compel them to lie in such abominable filth, should be treated like all other barbarities to animals.

POTOMAC FRUIT GROWERS.

DECEMBER MEETING.

This association met at the Board of Trade rooms Washington, Tuesday 1st, at noon; Colonel D. S. Curtiss in the chair, and P. H. Folsom, secretary.

A letter was read from Mrs. A. Cox, acknowledging receipt of letter and paper containing resolutions of condolence upon the death of Mr. J. W. Cox.

CANNING AND PRESERVING FRUITS.

On this interesting topic, Mr. Folsom, from the committee, introduced a resolution which was passed, that at some future meeting of this society the subject of canned and preserved fruits shall be discussed, and that an invitation be extended to all persons interested to join in such discussions and bring with them fruits and recipes to illustrate their processes, and that the committee be instructed to invite a proper person to deliver an essay upon preserved fruits, and that they provide written diplomas for the best varieties and recipes as they may deem proper.

Remarks were made by different speakers showing the importance of more largely canning and preserving fruits.

Dr. Snodgrass, chairman of committee on Publishing, reported that the committee had made arrangements with *The Republican*, according to instructions, by which the report of the official proceedings of the association, would be issued the day following the meeting, and immediately set before the members. One hundred copies would be supplied each month.

On motion of Mr. Pierson, the secretary was instructed to mail a copy to every paying member.

EFFECTS OF GAS LIME.

Mr. G. F. Needham asked if gas-lime was of benefit to wheat-lands and meadows, and fruit trees.

Mr. Pierson said its value was disputed; some thought it would not pay to haul it five miles.

Mr. Saunders said he could not pronounce upon its comparative value, but he had used twenty-five bushels to the acre with decided benefit. In the process of gas making it gains in ammonia, which is its chief value, if it had any over other lime.

D. S. Curtiss said it was being used to considerable extent in Virginia, on the meadows, wheat fields, and in compost for spring crops.

Z. M. P. King spoke of cases in which trees had been killed by the application of gas lime.

SHELL LIME—GAS-TAR.

Mr. A. W. Eaton thought the province of lime not fully determined. Shell-lime, which could be bought for eight cents per bushel, was a little milder, and consequently better. He had used twenty-five bushels to the acre profitably. He gave an instance where the application of gas-tar has killed a number of trees upon which it had been applied.

Mr. Saunders had seen peach trees tarred in quantities, with no injury. In the application of the gas-lime there was trouble if it was wet and lumpy and therefore hard to spread. Shell-lime was more profitable in the country; he had used car loads, and had seen decided effects from it on crops where he thought it better than guano or manure. It should be used at the rate of about fifty bushels to the acre.

J. T. Bramhall thought the danger of gas-tar was to young trees, not old ones—it does not kill borers.

The chair said he, and his father before him, had derived decided benefit from placing lime and ashes around the roots of fruit trees. Also by the use of nails driven into trees, to improve the health of the tree and better excellence of fruit, by causing the oxide of iron to circulate with the sap.

Dr. Snodgrass did not believe in the benefit of bruising the tree by driving in the nails. Stunting the tree facilitated the bearing properties, no doubt, but nothing more.

Mr. Saunders said that was the object of grafting on quinces—to get a slow growth and increased bearing. If the tree was stimulated too much the fruit would decrease until the tree hardly more than blossomed.

Mrs. Nute had practiced charging water with iron to stimulate the growth of her plants with great success. She put water in an old iron teakettle, and left it to rust, by which oxide of iron was imparted to the water, and when a little warm she applied it to her flowers and plants, which always made them thrifty and brilliant.

OYSTER SHELLS.

Mr. N. W. Pierson inquired as to the benefits of oyster shells, as to whether it was more profitable to grind and dissolve than to burn them. Found on his farm piles of unburnt shells, near where frequently other shells had been burned, but with no apparent profit to the soil, although heaps had lain about for a number of years, showing no benefit from the presence of shells not burned.

Mr. Saunders said in relation to the question of Mr. Pierson, that bones or shells gave strength to the soil in any way, but if dissolved, the work was more rapid, but all such things must be in state of solution before plants could take them up in their roots. He further said that a manufacturing company existed in Boston for grinding shells and bones. He could not state the exact good of the shells so ground, but everything must be dissolved to be taken up by plants. Ingredients, to be useful, must be thoroughly dissolved. Lime was very useful in that respect; it causes decomposition and changes of organic matter to prepare it for plant food. Heat, light, air, and water, were all needed for the production of the ripened fruits of all kinds of plants. A combination of all was needed. He said further that cultivation brought about this combination as was intended and was made consistent with Nature's laws. Drainage, for instance, the result of high cultivation, was very important in letting air and moisture into the soil. A drain made the soil open, loose, porous and spungy.—When there was sufficient moisture in the soil the residue of the water would pass off into the drains, leaving just as much moisture as the earth could hold to the depth of the pipe.

The chair stated that Mr. Leighton, the great pear grower of Norfolk, kept several casks filled with caustic ley or potash, into which he puts bones and shells, where in a few weeks they became dissolved, and then he composted this paste with manure or loam and muck, which he applied to his trees and land with good results, to fruit and crop.

The discussion was continued on this subject; when Mr. Saunders closed it by saying that he had

never seen any soil that had not sufficient mineral matter; you want to supply organic matter. Air and moisture are Nature's great decomposers. Silica only needs to be turned up to the air to be dissolved. This was his experience of years. He said we must study and follow nature's laws, and have few theories, remembering that a theory is an explanation of a successful and sure process. Vegetable physiology should be taught in schools as of great use. He recommended for study to the members interested Dr. Carpenter's work and Lindly's theory of horticulture as good and useful books on these subjects. He thought nothing more important for the student of horticulture and gardening, than to study nature and her laws, and this should be generally taught in our schools.

BUCKWHEAT IN ORCHARDS.

Dr. Snodgrass inquired as to reasons for sowing peach orchards to buckwheat, what was gained?

Mr. Saunders said he could give no reason; let science do that. If we have the facts let us go ahead. He knew it was a good plan, and practiced it.

Captain H. D. Smith said he indorsed the statement. He sowed buckwheat in his peach orchard, and let the fowls gather the grain crops. They left sufficient seed to produce a succeeding crop, and he kept plowing it in. Never took off the crop. He thought the hollow straw tended to lighten the soil.

Mr. Eaton asked how it would do to sow clover?

Captain Smith said a rich soil was not so much needed as a mellow one for a peach orchard. Clover would make a rich soil, but it would not be so light and moist, which was best for peaches.

Mr. Pierson said there was a mellowing process in buckwheat and peas, even when the crop was taken off. He had noticed that where oats and buckwheat had been sowed side by side the buckwheat left a light and the oats a heavy soil.

TOMATOES—THE "ARLINGTON."

The Chair referred to the "Arlington" tomato, originated and propagated by Captain Smith of Arlington, and asked Captain Smith for some statements about it.

The latter gentleman said the best should always be cultivated. No use bringing second-rate fruit to market. He had brought from fifty to a hundred bushels of his Arlington tomatoes to market, and sold them for over one dollar a bushel, when inferior stock would not net more than fifty cents a bushel. He advised to bring none but the best to market.

The association adjourned, to meet the first Tuesday in January.

LAND MARK.

ASHES FOR COWS.—To keep cows in good health in winter, I feed a little hard wood ashes—equal parts. Gives a small handful twice a week. Try it and see how they will seem to thank you for it. It is good for them, and I think will help in case of garget. It will clean out the foul blood; the cows will look sleek and feel good.—*Exchange.*

Good company and good conversation are the very sinews of virtue.

Fall and Early Winter Manuring.

No matter how susceptible manure is to fermentation, no matter whether it is fresh, heated up strongly, well rotted or an old compost, if it is spread out thinly on the field, all fermentation is speedily checked, just when a mass of lighted coals is scattered out over the ground, the glow ceases, the combustion declines, and even in the hottest summer day the fire is soon extinguished. If this spreading is done in the cool of autumn, and a gentle rain follows all the elements of the manure that can suffer loss—the ammonia, potash, etc., dissolve and sink into the soil. But they can not go far down unless we have manured a gravel bed or a sand pit. On land fit for a farmer to handle, whether a natural loam or a clay, subdued to a proper texture, the descent of fertilizing matter is arrested, as already mentioned, by the beautiful chemistry of soil absorption, the slowly descending water is filtered by the soil of nearly all it took from the manure and the real feeding qualities of the top dressing are distributed uniformly throughout the surface soil in a way no tillage can begin to imitate. Loss is reduced to its minimum, and the application is as perfect in style as in cost. If on the contrary, the manure is spread out in hot weather, and lies exposed some days to dry winds, the ammonia it contains, in the form of carbonate, will be carried off into the atmosphere; but this loss is not so great as is often supposed. The quantity of volatile ammonia that can be got out of stable manure by this exposure is certainly not greater than exists in it, and the analysis of Voelcker, Wolff and myself show that it amounts to but two to six parts in ten thousand of fresh or well-rotted manure.

In the above convincing statement by that able chemist and agricultural writer, Johnson, we are justified in our oft repeated convictions of the value of top-dressing the grass lands. In no other way can manure be used more economically and conveniently, by which the land will be most benefited. By this plan the ground will receive and retain near the surface all the valuable and enriching qualities of the manure, while the straw and undecomposed portions will help vegetation by acting as a mulch and protecting the tender roots of the grasses, while it is slowly decaying and adding finally to the humus in the soil. To improve worn out soils, the mineral fertilizers should be used as soon as there is obtained a supply of humus, and to get this, there must be grass. And to make grass grow, nothing better than a good top dressing of stable or barn yard manure or compost, applied in the latter part of autumn or early winter. But it will do to top dress at any season, yet of course there will be more evaporation in summer under the influence of burning suns and heavy showers, although even under such circumstances, professor Johnson says, the loss will be trifling. The best farmers for years past have found from experience derived from frequent tests, that top dressing is decidedly the best way to use the manure made on the farm.

LADIES DEPARTMENT.

A Chat with the Ladies for JANUARY.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

"None here, he hopes,
In all this noble bevy, has brought with her
One care abroad: he would have all as merry
As first—good company, good wine, good welcome
Can make good people."
"A good digestion to you all: and once more,
I shower a welcome on you:—Welcome all."

No matter who, whether *Shakespeare*, or some one else wrote these lines, "*them's* my sentiments along with the accustomed, hearty greeting of a *Happy New Year*, to each and all of my kind lady readers.

A new year and the first month of its birth, brings with it responsibilities to be incurred, thoughts of things and matters in the dead year of 1874 which remembrance brings up as ghosts of the past, for reflective remembrance, and in most cases for self rebuke and for both repentance and a determination to correct the errors of the past for our own good and that of the community in which we live. But few of our readers, if any, we are happy to say, are not influential in their own neighborhoods, and whether for good or evil can do much to regulate the tone of society for miles around. Then, in the beginning of a new year, pardon me, if I urge you to set an example of economy, in these times, when it is really required. It is no false idea as to the real state of pecuniary affairs. Our peculiar interest—agriculture—is most of all oppressed. Hardly an article used in the cultivation of agricultural products, but what is taxed beyond all reason or right. When I was a boy, boots could be bought for \$5, as good as those now sold for \$10 or \$12. Coffee was 15 cts. now 35, best Java or Mocha.—Sugar 6 cents now 12 cents per pound. Agricultural products are not as high as then, yet when the consumer gets them he pays double, because in that day there were no "middle men." The farmer's wife who gets 25 cts. for butter, and 50 cts. per pair for chickens, cannot come to market and get the same butter at less than 45 cts. to 75 cents per pound, for the one, or \$1. for the pair of chickens, robbed, at that, of the livers and gizzards.

Under these circumstances, it behooves the intelligent matrons of the land to uphold by practice and eloquent admonishment the propriety of economy and simplicity of dress and diet, which will promote health, and cheerfulness and long life. The primitive habits of our forefathers were healthful, simple, and a foe to the terrible bane of fashionable life of the present day—*envy and malice*! Many a girl whose bringing up alone has been the means of her ruin, or a life of misery from an imprudent marriage.

Many a man and wife, otherwise very sensible, worthy people, live in almost poverty, deprive themselves of not only comforts but actual necessities, to "bring out their daughter" in fashionable life. They rob baker and butcher and grocer, and often a poor seamstress, that Miss—be able to dress as fine and entertain her beaux as handsomely as most young ladies do whose parents can afford it, and the consequence is she falls and prey to some speculating, dishonorable fortune-hunter, who as soon as he finds out what his game has cost, the thought is madness, and he abandons his poor pet bird to her solitary cage on

poor food, or does worse. He may kill her by unkindness and daily reproaches, of undeserved faults falsely charged upon her character, or as some villains, so deceived, have done, by artifice, traded and sold her to another more unprincipled than himself.

The great misery of womanhood is from ill-assorted marriages, and such alliances are the fault too often, of parents. The terribly offensive, (to the taste of virtuous and sober minded men of the older school) fashions of female attire are conducive to female ruin and to the unhappy marriages that lead to divorce or crime, or matrimonial misery. Mothers then cannot be too careful of the dress, and the company of their daughters. The time has come when society must be purged and chiefly of loafing money-seekers and even stylishly dressed girls endangering the credit of their fathers. "Beauty unadorned is adorned the best" is one of the happy truisms uttered by that master of the human senses, and enjoyed the "seasons" as they came in turn, with a wise prudence, as he read the frailties of humanity.

Now, at the beginning of the New Year, let me, mothers and daughters, regardless of the censure you may shower on me, urge you during these "hard times," to set each one for herself an example to your poorer friends and neighbors, of strict economy and simplicity of dress—a neat calico and white muslin apron, for instance—it won my heart once, and it is hardly too seared by time yet, not to be won by such sweet attire again. There is poetry in the simple dress of a fresh, joyous country maiden, as she comes from her skating on the ice pond, or a horse-back gallop to the post office, on a bright cold winter's day.

Now, besides economy in dress, there are other things our daughters should be encouraged to follow. First of all, the practice of human charities, to the utmost of their respective abilities.

Physical development and cultivation of health, fitting them for mothers, by often and regular out door exercise.

The practice of some useful industry. The constant daily reading of some book on history, poetry, geography, travels, biography, theology, or alone, the Bible, *Shakespeare* and the Dictionary. The three last comprehend everything worth knowing except the journals of the day, inclusive of the *Maryland Farmer*.—A few hours a day devoted to sensible reading will accomplish much in a year. Put these long winter nights, much could be accomplished by learning some language, music, drawing and painting, or wax-working. Each and all may some day come in as a source of supply of food and comfort to a sick husband or helpless orphan children. Let the richest heiress appreciate in time, the fact "riches take wings and fly away oft times," and be like the wise virgins, have their lamps always filled, that at the hour of need they will have the means of entering the house comfort and plenty, in their own power and not be turned adrift with none to help in their dark hour of troublous necessity.

I know I am subjecting myself to the severe reproaches and perhaps the contemptuous poutings of many a thoughtless beauty's lips, but I write in the fullness of my heart and for the benefit of woman kind, which I have revered from youth to old age.—I must be pardoned, for in the society, in which I am pleased to say my position places me, I see so much needless waste of money in the adornment—often in the disfigurement—of the female person, I can with-

hold no longer, in my familiar chats, the expression of my utter dislike of present fashions, extravagance and want of modest grace in dress and manners of, otherwise, "the loveliest of the lovely" of their sex in this, or any other age.

Now a word only, about domestic matters.

Keep poultry warm, clean and well fed.

Cows high fed, well groomed, warmly sheltered and cleanly bedded. The milk must not be chilled, but as soon as strained put over hot water and set away in a temperature of not less than 50 or 60 degrees for 24 hours, and then skimmed. The cream kept in same temperature until churned.

Fruits and vegetables must not be kept too warm, but not allowed to freeze. Apples, I have known to freeze hard and then a wet cloth put over the open head of the barrel or box, they would not be injured and continue sound for a long time.

As this is the season for generous diet I give one or two recipes.

Hash for breakfast or dinner side-dish. Any remnants of cold fowl, sausage or fresh meat, two dozen oysters with their liquor, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. bread crumbs, 2 oz. butter, pepper and salt, and 2 table spoonsfull of catsup of some sort, tomato the best; add a little water and stew until almost brown.

Terrapin—Boil until the shells will come off readily—Take off the lower shell and carefully remove the gall-bladder. Take out the whole terrapin, after cutting up in small pieces, place in a saucepan with half a pint of water in which it was boiled, thickened with two heaping table spoonsfull of browned flour, some pepper, salt and 2 ounces of butter. Stew well until it gets thickish, pour in 2 wine glasses of sherry wine or one of old pure gin and serve directly. The *Sliders* are only apologies for terrapin, and their trail is unfit for use after March—though inconsiderate and inexperienced people use them. They are not however a first class dish. Lambs liver cooked in same way is far superior to this common tortoise. The diamond back terrapin is one of the glories of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. Once I could buy the best for \$1.50 to \$2 per dozen. Then each man had his terrapin brought on the upper shell, and prepared with butter, salt and pepper, eaten out of the shell, with a hot whisky of pure Irish distilling—it was a supper or dinner that Epicurus or Lucullus would have envied, but for them, never enjoyed. Now the same sort and size of terrapin will bring in market for one, what then a dozen cost—oh! how times have changed—Mothers and daughters can we not change, and economise to bring our expenses down to the small limit of those happy days which have fled?

EGGS IN CASE OF TROUBLE.—Eggs are useful for many purposes besides food and for hatching. If you get a fish bone in your throat, and sticking fast there; swallow an egg raw, and it will be almost sure to carry down a bone easily and certainly.—There is another fact touching eggs which will be well to remember. When, as sometimes by accident, corrosive sublimate is swallowed, the white of one or two eggs will neutralize the poison and change the effect to that of a dose of calomel.

A house without flowers is not a home.

RANCID BUTTER.—We long ago cut from an exchange the following recipe:

"To a pint of water add 30 drops (about half teaspoonful) of liquor of chloride of lime. Wash in this two and a half pounds of rancid butter. When every particle has come in contact with the water, let it stand an hour or two; then wash the butter well again in pure water. The butter is then left without any odor, and has the sweetness of fresh butter. These preparations of lime have nothing injurious in them."

We forthwith obtained from Mr. D. Nicholson, as a personal favor, some of the most rancid butter in his very extensive establishment, and it was bad enough for any stomach that had more sensibility than a wagon wheel. We doctored it as per recipe, and when placed on the table along with good butter, very able judges could not distinguish the new butter. Here is a fact worth a year's subscription to a paper.—*Coleman's Rural World*.

HOW SALT FISH SHOULD BE FRESHENED.—Many persons are in the habit of freshening mackerel or other salt fish, and never dream that there is a right and wrong way to do it. Any person who has seen the process of evaporating going on at the salt works, knows that the salt falls to the bottom. Just so it is in the pan where your mackerel or white-fish lies soaking; and, as it lies with the skin side down, the salt, will fall to the skin and there remain, when, if placed with the flesh side down, the salt falls to the bottom of the pan, and the fish comes out freshened as it should be.—In the other case, it is nearly as salt as when put in. If you do not believe this, test the matter for yourself.—*Planter and Farmer*.

KEEPING CIDER SWEET.—A correspondent in the *Country Gentleman* advises all who wish to keep cider good "to get pint bottles of stone or glass (old ale bottles worth three cents), wash them perfectly clean, and when cider is in the right stage for drinking (say in January), put one teaspoonful of white sugar and two small raisins or one clove (either will answer), in each bottle, then fill with the cider up to the neck of bottle, drive in the cork with a small mallet, then put a wire over the cork that will surely hold it; set the bottles in the coldest place in the cellar without freezing—on flagstone is best— and next summer, and one year after, he will have pleasant cider to drink, if not all gone sooner.

The farmers wife who can cook with green, wet wood, in a smokey fire place, and do without a Periodical and not murmur, is unfit for such a man, but is well fitted for paradise.

TO THE READERS OF THE MARYLAND FARMER.

The Publisher desires to express his sincere thanks for your generous patronage, and would cordially tender to you and your families, the compliments of the season, and wish you a happy and prosperous year.

It is evident from the numerous, prompt renewals of subscriptions, and the number of new subscribers being added to our roll, that the character of this Journal is becoming more and more appreciated. The expressions of satisfaction with, and praise of the last volume of the "*Farmer*," accompanying the renewal of subscriptions, by many of our most intelligent old subscribers, is most gratifying and encouraging.

There is no more reliable mode of estimating the merit and value of a Journal, than by comparing it with its contemporaries, devoted to the promotion of the same interests—this, it appears, many of our most competent readers have done, judging by their favorable comparison of the "*Farmer*" with other Agricultural and Horticultural Journals, of which they speak familiarly. Whilst we feel that we have reason to be justly proud of the useful and interesting character of the "*Farmer*," both in its editorial and its contributed matter; as well as of the diversified array in our advertising columns of illustrations and descriptions of everything needed by our rural readers, we are ready to concede similar merit to a number of our exchanges, of which we have a large list from all parts of the country.

In fact, it is very evident that practical journalism has been reduced to a science in this country; and at no other period in the world's history could the producer obtain at any cost, the voluminous stock of the valuable scientific, practical and seasonable knowledge pertaining to every branch of his art, that he can now get in monthly or weekly installments of thirty to fifty large pages each, at mere nominal cost. For the price of a bushel of wheat, or a barrel of potatoes, a monthly journal, post paid, may now be obtained for a year; any copy of which is worth to the most intelligent producer in the land, much more than the cost for a year. We claim for the "*Maryland Farmer*" that its value is greatly enhanced by the character of its contributors, among whom are many of our most intelligent, practical working farmers, who are equally at home with plow or pen; and who as willingly publish for the benefit of those for whom they write, their failures as their successes—men o,

ripe age and experience, whose lives have been actively devoted to mixed husbandry, hence their counsel to the young and inexperienced is invaluable. Of its editorial corps it may also be said that they are veterans, and having long filled the editorial chair with acknowledged ability—their great experience and familiarity with the climate, soil, crops, stock, fertilizers, and markets, and every variety of implement, machine and vehicle required, are as capable as they are ever ready to give safe and use-ful counsel in any department of the multifarious art.

We feel sensibly the importance of maintaining, and improving in every practicable manner, the standard of the "*Farmer*," so that it shall have no superior in the country as a guide and text book for the practical farmer, planter and horticulturist, and that each interest shall receive commensurable attention and encouragement. It is cheering that a lively interest in Horticulture has been inaugurated during the past year in our State—a society organized, and measures taken for fostering and promoting this much neglected, yet very important branch of terraculture.

We have secured the best talent in the country for the future support of the different departments of the "*Farmer*," and we are determined that it shall deservedly, not only maintain its acknowledged excellence, but that it shall at an early day, stand pre-eminent among the Agricultural Journals of the world.

As in the past, so in the future, it will be our purpose to adapt the matter of the columns of the "*Farmer*" to the interests of our people at large, and to avoid sectional favoritism. We trust that we are not unconscious of all that is required to carry out our avowed purpose, and feel that we fully understand the situation; and all that we ask is that our present subscribers, who alone know the value of the *Farmer* to the producer, will place it in the hands of their neighbors who are not subscribers, that they too may know its great value.

We would call the attention of all to our very low subscription prices, especially for clubs, and will add that we will send the "*Farmer*" to any new subscriber free for three months, and pre-pay the postage at that: if each one receiving it will send us the amount of the subscription for the balance of the year, at the regular rate, prior to the expiration of the free quarter, or direct us to discontinue sending it.

Thus it will be seen, we are willing to place the "*Farmer*" in the hands of all who are not now subscribers, strictly on its own merit. We are printing of each issue, extras by the thousand, hence we

are prepared to fulfill our promise to as many as will give us, in an intelligible hand, their name, post office, county and State.

The ablest men in the land now claim, and undeniably assert, that a reliable Agricultural Journal, and the Weather Reports, are as essential to the prosperity and success of the farmer, as a correct chart and compass are to the mariner.

But to be valuable, those guides must be diligently studied, and their teachings and admonitions heeded, and the complex art must be prosecuted with untiring vigilance. In the use of these potent aids, sagaciously applied, we are safe in saying that the productions of the country may readily be vastly increased, and its cost proportionately diminished—and in conclusion, we assert that the financial condition of the intelligent, frugal and industrious producers of this country, is far better than the average of those of other vocations.

We hope that our readers will not attribute the, perhaps undue length of our card to enthusiasm, but to the real cause, a strong desire to promote our mutual and inseparable interests.

EZRA WHITMAN,
Publisher Maryland Farmer.

TO CUT SCIONS.—The proper time to cut scions is again in full blast among many of our contemporaries. One would suppose that a question like this could be settled by any one having trees from which to take scions. We have never failed with our grafts when cut in February, or even later when the season was backward. After cutting them they are stuck into the ground at the foot of the tree from which they are taken—about two inches, and they are used when required. If the ground is frozen they are tied in small parcels and buried under a shed, or wherever the ground will admit of it, and where it is not too moist. Cherry scions should be cut before they show any swelling of the bud, or they will not grow.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

TO AVOID GREASY BUTTER.—L. B. Arnold says:—"Churn with pressure instead of friction.—The dash churn brings butter by pressure, and makes better butter than most other kinds of churns for that reason. Butter should also be worked by pressure instead of friction. The ladle or worker should not be drawn across the butter, but pressed down *upon it.*"

The best time to kill weeds is every day in the year, and the stage of their growth at which they are most easily killed is as soon as they can be seen.

Why Eggs of Fancy Breeds of Chickens Will Not Hatch.

In one of the late issues of your valuable paper I noticed a paragraph in reference to the eggs of fancy chickens not hatching well, and that you desired to hear from some of the many "Poultry producers briefly on the subject." I therefore give my views, having kept "Fancy Fowls" from boyhood up, and as I bred some that have had first premium cards tacked upon their cages, I may be supposed to know whereof I speak.

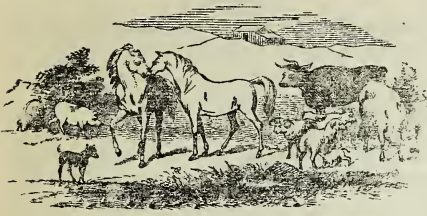
In nine cases out of ten that have come under my observation, the reason of bad hatching was *over-feeding* of the stock-birds. Confinement in small yards will not injure the fertility of the eggs if the fowls are fed and cared-for in a judicious or systematic manner. Yarding or penning them away from other fowls is an absolute necessity if the breeder would keep his stock pure; but as a rule when an amateur fancier or breeder becomes possessed of a trio of fine fowls, he places them in his yard and straightway commences to pamper and cram them with all sorts of conceivable and inconceivable food that he can get them to eat, and soon has them fit for nothing but the pot.

L. Wright, author of the "Brahma Fowl," says, "Over-fattening is the great evil of our present system of exhibition. We have had eggs sent to us for inspection by indignant purchasers from celebrated exhibitors, little larger than those of a bantam, and sterile of course. A fat hen will always lay small eggs, which can only produce small and weak chickens." My method of feeding fowls during the breeding season is to give them just enough to satisfy their hunger and no more. As soon as they cease to run for their food when thrown down to them, stop it at once. *Never allow any food to be left uneaten*; better stop them with a good appetite and encourage them to scratch and take as much exercise as possible, and their eggs will hatch as well as the common variety of fowls.—*W. C. Flower, in Germantown Telegraph.*

Fancy Poultry.

The interest in fine poultry continues unabated, indeed is on the increase. Those who prophesied, two or three years ago, that the fashion of keeping fancy fowls would be as short lived as the velocipede mania must acknowledge their mistake. True, the ups and downs of fashion will affect fowl keeping as everything else; the liking for poultry, however, is not dependent on fashion entirely, but is founded on an innate fondness for animals, which will last as long as humanity lasts. In many cases the would-be prophets have caught the mania,—*Poultry World.*

Live Stock Register.



Are the Long Wool Grade Sheep Best for Farmer?

We related, last summer, a conversation with a butcher in this city, in which the superiority of the Cotswold grade sheep for mutton was presented. In that conversation, it was stated that a cross of the Cotswold, or other long woolled sheep, with the Merino made the most desirable mutton. That the Merino is too lean and dry, while the full-blooded Cotswold tended altogether too much to fat, but that a cross gives good, heavy quarters of good, juicy mutton, neither too fat nor too lean and dry.

Conversing with some of our heavier wool dealers, last week, they remarked that the wool of long-wool grade sheep is more sought after by manufacturers than either that of the Merino, or full-blooded long-wool. By consulting our market reports, it will be seen that coarse and combing wools rule several cents higher in our market than fine wool! The same, or even greater differences are made in the New York and Boston markets.

These facts, while they challenge the attention of farmers, and should lead to a careful examination of the subject, do not *prove* that long-wool grades are the most profitable kinds for the farmer. Other considerations should have due weight.—From what breeds can we, taking one year with another, raise—say \$100 worth of wool, or \$100 worth of mutton, with the least food, and care of the sheep? If Merino sheep, from the same feed and care, will produce a greater value in wool and mutton than the long-wooled breeds or the grades, then it is to the interest of the farmer to keep that kind. If the coarse breeds will pay the best, then it is to the interest of farmers to work into those breeds. We throw out these thoughts to invite attention, and to call out the practical experiences of sheep husbandmen.—*American Rural Home.*

Thoroughbred Swine.

In the *Swine and Poultry Journal*, Mr. Alex. Charles discusses the subject of the general farmer

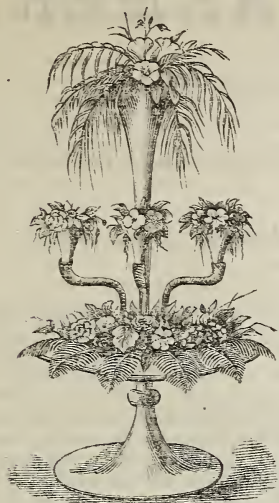
becoming breeders of thoroughbreds, as follows :

The theory has been advocated, and practice has clearly demonstrated, that it is impracticable for the general farmers of the country to become breeders of fine, or properly speaking, thoroughbred stock, with the idea of disposing of it at fancy prices. There may be many reasons ascribed for this, the principal of which is that it takes more time and more capital to start than most of them are in circumstances to afford, to say nothing of the business being a profession which requires more study and experience than most of them can give. The breeding of any of the improved breeds of swine is, however, quite different from horses, cattle, or sheep, and we are fully convinced that every farmer of the country can become a breeder of thoroughbred swine, and make it a remunerative business. Some may say we cannot all sell them at fancy prices, which is very true, neither do they need to do so in order to make it profitable. The man who buys a short-horn cow at \$1,000 must necessarily sell her calf at \$300 or \$500, or the investment will not be a paying one. Such an animal will produce only one calf in a year.

The case is quite different with swine. A farmer at the present day can buy a pair of thoroughbred hogs ready to breed, or any of our improved breeds, at from \$35 to 50 per pair, and with ordinary success will produce twelve to eighteen pigs during the year. Thus it will be seen that he only has to sell them at \$1.50 or \$2 to be making as much on the capital invested as the fancy breeder who is purchasing cattle and horses at \$1,000 each and disposing of the produce at \$500 per head. Then it is at once apparent to all that the above prices are not as much as can be realized for the common scrub hogs of the country at two or three months old. Then should he find difficulty in disposing of them at that age, it will pay him three-fold to keep them to twelve to fifteen months of age, at which time they will be hogs weighing upward of 300 lbs., which are worth from one and one-half to two cts. more per pound, than the scrub hogs brought to market.

We ask the careful attention of the reader to this matter; we are not writing from a theoretical standpoint, but from practice of what we write, knowing that such are daily occurrences. These being the facts, why will so many of our farmers persist in keeping a stock of hogs so well known as Prairie Rooters? Some may say they cannot afford to buy the stock to start with. This excuse will hold good only in but few cases, while the prices of all our improved breeds of swine are so low. The experience of all who have tried it fully attest that the use of thoroughbred males in horses, cattle, sheep, or swine, is one of the best paying investments they can enter in. And if it is so in cattle, then it must be doubly so in swine; and if those who do not believe in thorough breeds will use thoroughbred males of any of the improved breeds on their common stock of cows, it will soon show a marked improvement that will in a very short time pay many hundred per cent. on the investment. Surely no objection in regard to cost can be raised from pursuing this course while the best breeders of the country are offering choice males at from \$15 to \$25 each.

TABLE ORNAMENTS.



At this festive season of the year we deem it not inappropriate to call the attention of all who like a well appointed table, adorned with flowers in the most pleasing forms, to the following description of an ornamented dinner table, and an illustration of the central ornament, for which we are indebted to our friend VICK, of Rochester, N. Y.

Much attention is given in Europe to Table Floral Decorations. The different Horticultural Societies offer large prizes for the best decorated Dining Table, and in some cases these exhibitions are made in rooms darkened for the occasion and lighted with gas. Nothing prettier can be imagined than some of these exhibition tables. With one style I was much pleased. It consisted of a border of low flowers in shallow glass vessels, with three central ornaments. This bordering is of glass, about two inches in width, and of such forms that they can be made into almost any shape desired. Being partially filled with water, flowers are arranged in them according to taste.

CRIBBING HORSES.—"Cribbing is caused in the first place by some foreign substance being pressed between the teeth, or by the front teeth growing too close together, thus causing pain. The horse, to avoid this, instinctively pulls at any hard substance, thus spreading the points of the teeth, and by that means affording temporary relief. To remedy this fault, it is only necessary to saw between the teeth with a very thin saw; this relieves the teeth of all side pressure, and effectually ends the trouble. The gulping of wind and the gurgling in the throat are effects that will cease with the removal of the cause."—*Dr. Cook in the Scientific American.*

LIME FOR APPLE TREES.

A successful pomologist of New Jersey writes the *New York Herald* that he once noticed that a tree standing in the immediate vicinity of his dwelling had all at once put forth with renewed energy and he was at a loss for some time to define the cause. On examination he found that a quantity of lime, which had accidentally been spilled and rendered worthless by becoming mixed with the refuse, on the stable floor, had been thrown at the foot of and around the tree, and to this, as the principal cause, he immediately accredited the revival and renewed fructification of the tree. Taking the hint from the incident, he purchased twelve casks of lime and applied half a bushel to each of the trees in his orchard, and found that it produced immediate beneficial effects. Not the health of the tree only but the quality of the fruit also was greatly improved. The *Herald* adds that it has known some farmers to make it a regular practice for a succession of years to throw caustic lime around their apple trees in the spring and summer.

TICKS ON SHEEP.

Ticks are often exceedingly vexatious to flock-masters. These parasites thrive on indifferently kept sheep. If the sheep be fat and healthy, they usually disappear of their own accord, and for two principal reasons; one, that parasites cannot live where much oil is present, and a fat animal is always oily; another reason is, that they cannot penetrate to the veins so easily for their sustenance. Hence, a little oil-meal, fed occasionally, is good to rid a flock of these pests, since a portion usually finds its way quickly to and through the pores of the skin. But if fed liberally on good hay and corn or other grain, and kept comfortably warm and with good ventilation, but little trouble will be experienced from ticks, and when shorn, the wool, from its fine and homogeneous quality, commands a much higher price from the expert buyer than that of wool whose growth has been repeatedly checked, and therefore rendered weak from irregular feeding. Sheep allowed to fall away from cold or bad feeding in Winter, and then by extra feeding suddenly forced into growth, will be troubled with shedding of wool. This will be an additional reason why they should be well looked after in the Fall and Winter.

No farmer can afford to allow his animals to suffer with cold or hunger.

Run in debt for nothing.

THE MARYLAND FARMER.

For the Field, Orchard, Garden and Household.

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THE MARYLAND FARMER is a thorough-going, reliable and practical journal, sedulously devoted to the Practical Improvement of Agriculture, in the Field, Orchard and Garden; to the economical increase of the more Staple Crops, the production of the Finest Fruits and Vegetables, the cultivation of the rarest and most beautiful Flowers, the laying out and adornment of Lawns and Yards; the Improvement of Stock of all Kinds; the erection of the most Approved and Economical Buildings for the protection of man and beast, and to suggestions for lightening the labors and improving the administration of General Household Economy; containing occasionally a variety of Fine Engravings, illustrating the latest improvements in all departments, and a Calendar of Seasonable Suggestions, relating to Farm and Garden Work, appropriate to the period of its issue is of itself a fund of valuable information, whilst the issue of the year will make up a volume that no one interested in the cultivation of the soil should be without.

WHO WANTS IT?

Farmers Want It, because it exposes to them monthly, the results of the labor and investigations of hundreds of practical workmen in the various departments of Agriculture, affording to their own exertions the light of universal experience as a guide.

The Gardener Wants It, for the valuable suggestions it contains in relation to his special department of labor, and as a means of keeping himself at all times posted as to what is doing in the way of introducing and propagating new and useful varieties of Vegetables.

The Fruit Grower will find it indispensable for the amount of useful information it contains in relation to the different varieties of Fruits—always increasing—their Mode of Cultivation, Propagation, Preservation, &c.

The Horticulturist Wants it, because he will find it a valuable auxiliary, as it contains many communications from practical men, upon this beautiful science, together with engravings and descriptions of whatever new varieties may be introduced.

The Stock Raiser Wants it, because in this department of Rural Pursuits there is nothing more important than to keep thoroughly apprised of the results of experiments for the improvement of Stock by Importation, Judicious Crossing, Treatment, &c., which are constantly noticed in its columns.

The Manufacturer Wants It, who is anyway interested in the production of Implements and Machinery for the Farm, as he will find in it plates and thorough descriptions of all kinds of Agricultural Machinery, new and old, and thus keep himself apprised of the wants and improvements of his own field of labor.

The House-Keeper, cannot do *well* without it, because of the *new and valuable recipes* contained in every number for lightening the labors of the household, adding to their economy, and improving their practical results.

In fact there is no one who is at all interested in the pursuit of Agriculture, even to the extent of one-fourth of an acre, who will not reap information and improvement from its pages.

Advertisers will find it a valuable medium to reach customers in the city and country, as it circulates through this and the adjoining States. Specimen copies free on application.

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Col. S. S. MILLS, Conducting Editor.

Col. W. W. BOWIE, Associate Editor.

THE MARYLAND FARMER.

Catalogues, &c., Received.

RUNNING TO WASTE.—The Story of a Tom-boy—By George M. Baker—Boston: Lee & Shephard. This is the title of a very bright and entertaining juvenile work by the above popular author. It is a pleasing story, conveying a good lesson of perseverance, as well as showing that the physical development gained by out-door exercises, and the habit of depending on her abilities may be of the utmost value to a young lady, though in a different way.

MARTYN WARE'S TEMPTATION.—By Mrs. Henry Wood, Philadelphia:—T. B. Petterson & Bros.—price 25 cents. This novel has an ingeniously constructed plot, and displays all the leading characteristics of this author's style and will be read with interest by all who delight in the marvellous. Sent for 25 cents postpaid—for sale by all booksellers.

THE ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS AND CULTIVATOR ALMANAC, for the year 1875, containing practical suggestions for the Farmer and Horticulturist, with over 170 Engravings, edited by J. J. Thomas, author of the "American Fruit Culturist." This is the 21st issue of Rural Affairs, and we can conceive of no way in which our readers can invest 30 cents more profitably, than by mailing that amount to Luther Tucker & Son, Albany, and securing one of these books. It treats of all sorts of things in which the farmer and gardener are interested.—Send for it.

Mr. J. J. H. Gregory of Marblehead, Mass., has his annual advertisement in our columns. He was the original introducer of some of the best vegetables now found on every table. He comes this season with a new squash, and a number of tempting specialties, some of which are finely illustrated from engravings taken from photographs. The fact that so many of his varieties of seed are of his own growing, is a golden fact for farmers and gardeners.

From W. F. Massey & Co., River Bank Greenhouses, Chestertown, Kent Co., Md., their Catalogue of Flowering Plants, Flower Seeds, Small Fruits, Vegetable Plants, and Garden requisite for 1875. They also announce the dissolution of the late firm of Massey & Hudson, by mutual consent, and the continuation of the business by W. F. Massey, under the title of W. F. Massey & Co.

EIGHTH STATE FAIR of the Mechanics and Agricultural Fair Association of Louisiana, will commence in the City of New Orleans, on Wednesday, February 3rd, 1875, and continue ten days. The list of premiums is on the most liberal scale, amounting to over \$20,000.

From William Parry, Cinnaminson, Burlington Co., N. J., his Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Vines and Plants. The Pomona Garden and Nursery established in 1838.

From Comstock, Ferre & Co., Wethersfield, Conn., their Illustrated Catalogue and Gardener's Almanac, for 1875.

SAVE by sending to **OLDEST TEA HOUSE** in America **TWO DOLLARS** for **3 POUNDS OF BEST TEA**. Kind preferred mailed free to any address. Greatest inducements for Agents. **CANTON TEA CO.**
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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Free one year.
Do not wait.
Save
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The Green House.
Illustrated Floral Work.
Gates Hay & Straw Cutters.

BALTIMORE MARKETS--Jan. 2d:

Prepared for the "Maryland Farmer" by **GILLMORE & ROGERS**, Produce Commission Merchants,
159 W. Pratt st.

[Unless when otherwise specified the prices are wholesale.]

ASHES.—Pots quiet at \$6.50@\$6.75.
BEESWAX.—Good demand at 30@31 cts.
BROOM CORN.—Active at 6½@10 cts.
COFFEE.—Active—prices range from 18¼@22½ cts. for ordinary to choice, gold duty paid.
COTTON.—Market firmer—Ordinary, 12 cts; Good Ordinary 13½ cts; Low Middling, 14½ cts; Middling, 14½ cts; Good Middling, 15½ cts; Middling Fair, 16 cts.
EGGS.—Fresh lots—Md. and Pa., case, 25@26 cts.; Ohio, barrel, 24@25 cts.
FERTILIZERS.—No change to note. We quote:
Peruvian Guano.....\$56 ½ ton of 2000 lbs
Turner's Excelsior.....55 ½ ton "
Turner's Ammo. S. Phos.....45 ½ ton "
E. F. Coe's Ammo. S. Phos.....55 ½ ton "
Soluble Pacific Guano.....50 ½ ton "
Rasin & Co., Soluble Sea Island Guano 50 ½ ton "
Rasin & Co., Ground Bone and Meat....." "
Rasin & Co., Ammonia, Potash and Bone Phosphate of Lime....." "
Flour of Bone.....60 ½ ton "
John Bullock & Sons Pure G'd Bone.....45 ½ ton "
Whitman's phosphate.....50 ½ ton "
Bone Dust.....45 ½ ton "
Horner's Maryland Super Phos.....50 ½ ton "
Horner's Bone Dust.....45 ½ ton "
Dissolved Bones.....60 ½ ton "
Missouri Bone Meal.....47 ½ ton "
New Jersey Ground Bone.....40 ½ ton "
Moro Phillips' Super-Phosphate Lime 50 ½ ton "
"A" Mexican Guano.....30 ½ ton "
"A" do do.....30 ½ ton "
Plaster.....\$1.75 ½ bbl.

FRUITS DRIED.—Cherries, 26@28 cents; Blackberries, 9@9½ cts; Whortleberries, 16 cts; Raspberries, 33@34 cts; Peaches, peeled, bright, 20@25 cts; Peaches, unpeeled, halves, 8@9 cts; Peaches, unpeeled, quarters, 6@7 cts; Apples, sliced, bright, 9@12 cts; Apples, quarters, bright, 6@7 cts.

FLOUR.—Market Active—Super \$4.25@4.50; Extra 4.75 @5.35; Western Family 5.37@6.25; Choice family, \$8.25.

GRAIN.—Wheat—Quiet, fair to choice, white, 1.25@1.40; fair to choice, red, 1.20@1.35. Co n—Southern white, 82 @85—Yellow do 80@82—Western mixed 80@83 cts. Oats—64@65 cts.

HAY AND STRAW.—Timothy Hay, steady at \$19@\$21 per ton; Rye Straw \$13@14; Oat Straw 12@14; Wheat Straw \$10.00@12.00.

HIDES.—Green 9@10 cts.; Dry salted 13@14 cts.; Dry Flint 15@18 cts.

PROVISIONS.—Bacon Shoulders, 9 cts.; Clear Rib Sides, 11½@11¾ cts; S. C. Hams, 14@14½ cts.

POTATOES.—Early Rose \$3.25 per Barrel.

RICE.—Carolina and Louisiana, 7@7½ cts.

SALT.—Ground Alum \$1.05@1.15; Fine \$1.95@2.10 per sack; Turks Island 30@32 cts. per bushel.

WHISKEY.—\$1.00 per galloa.



My annual catalogue of Vegetable and Flower Seed for 1875, will be ready by Jan. 1st for all who apply. Customers of last season need not write for it. In it will be found several valuable varieties of new vegetables introduced for the first time this season, having made new vegetables a specialty for many years. Growing over a hundred and fifty varieties on my several farms. I would particularly invite the patronage of market gardeners and all others who are especially desirous to have their seed pure and fresh, and of the very best strain. All seed sent out from my establishment are covered by three warrants as given in my catalogue.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass.

Jan 1t

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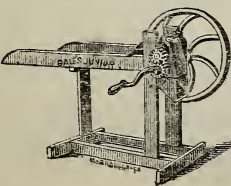
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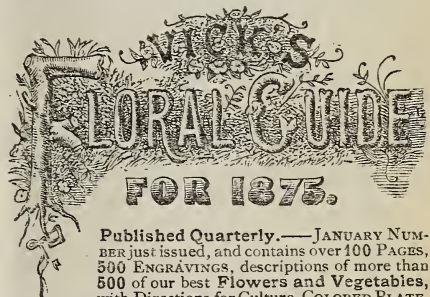
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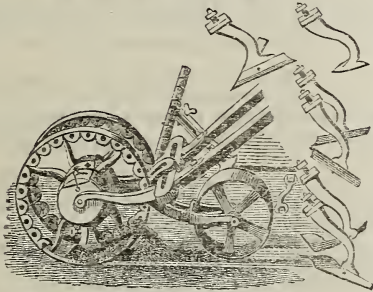
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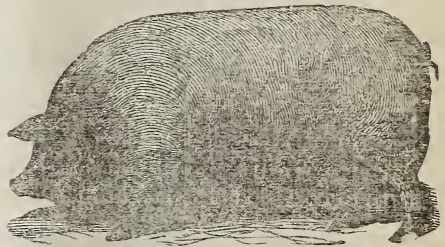
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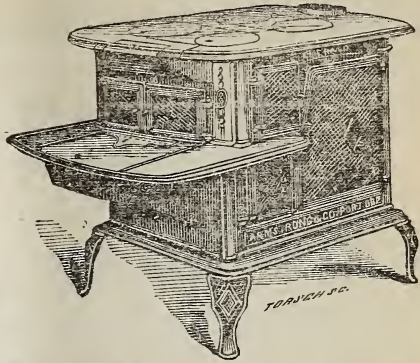
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WE OFFER TO THE TRADE THE FOLLOWING GOODS. ALL OF WHICH ARE ABSOLUTELY
FREE FROM ADULTERATION:

DISSOLVED GROUND BONE, Containing 3 per ct of Ammonia,
DISSOLVED SOUTH AMERICAN BONE ASH,
DISSOLVED SOUTH CAROLINA PHOSPHATE.

SLINGLUFF & CO., Baltimore, Md.

OFFICE,

WORKS,

155 W. FAYETTE ST.

FOOT OF LEADENHALL ST.

Jan-1y

JOHN A. LORD,

KENNEBUNK, MAINE,

BREEDER OF CHOICE

FANCY FOWLS,

Of the following Leading and Popular Varieties:

White and Patridge Cochins, Plymouth Rocks and Light Brahmas.

*Winners of two Silver Cups, three Specials and eight Society premiums, at the Great Show, held in
Portland, January 13-16, 1874.*

EGGS \$3 PER DOZEN,

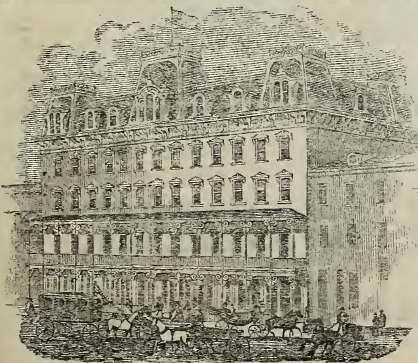
Carefully Packed and delivered to Express.

Young Fowls for sale in the Fall.

All

Jan-3t

Orders accompanied by the Cash, will be promptly filled.



MALTBY HOUSE

BALTIMORE, MD.

C. R HOGAN, Proprietor.

Capacity 350 Guests.

Has just received a series of Costly and Elegant Improvements, embracing every Department of the Hotel, having been Remodeled, Enlarged and Newly Furnished throughout thereby supplying a want long felt by the traveling public, a "FIRST CLASS HOTEL," at the very moderate price of \$2.50 per day.

There is attached to the Hotel the most Elegant and extensive RESTAURANT in the city, thereby enabling persons to engage Rooms and live on the European plan, if so desired,

Jan-1y

Garden and Field Seeds.

THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF

FRESH AND GENUINE SEEDS

Ever offered in Baltimore.

EMBRACING ALL THE NEWEST AND MOST APPROVED VARIETIES OF THIS COUNTRY
AND OF EUROPE.

WE HAVE LAID IN AN UNUSUALLY LARGE STOCK OF GARDEN SEEDS,
AND ALSO OFFER AN ASSORTMENT NEVER EQUALLED IN
BALTIMORE OF

Seed Potatoes, Millet,
Clover, White Clover,
Timothy, Alsike Clover,
Orchard Grass, Lucerne,
Rye Grass, Hungarian Grass,
Kentucky Blue Grass, Herds Grass,
Seed Oats, Wheat,
Corn, Rye, Buckwheat,
 &c., &c., &c.

*Prices as Low as those of any other First-Class
Seed House.*

E. WHITMAN & SONS,
BALTIMORE, MD.

JOHN C. DURBOROW,

GENERAL AGENT FOR

THE KIRBY MOWERS & REAPERS,

55 LIGHT ST.,



BALTIMORE.

THE BURDICK INDEPENDENT REAPER with BALTIMORE SELF-RAKE, was awarded FIRST PREMIUM and DIPLOMA at Maryland State Fair, 1873. The COMBINED KIRBY REAPER and MOWER with BALTIMORE SELF RAKE, received FIRST PREMIUM, at Montgomery County and Carroll County, Maryland Fairs, 1873. The KIRBY TWO-WHEEL MOWER, received FIRST PREMIUM at Carroll County, Frederick County and Montgomery County, Maryland Fairs, 1873.

Simple, Strong and Durable.

POSITIVELY NO SIDE DRAUGHT, NO WEIGHT ON THE HORSES' NECKS. Extras and repairs constantly on hand. Send for Circular and Price List.

ALSO DEALER IN

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,

Of all Kinds, CUCUMBER PUMPS, SEEDS, &c.

JOHN C. DURBOROW,

dec-ly

55 Light Street, near Pratt, Baltimore, Md.

E. WHITMAN & SONS'

NEW CATALOGUE

OF

Seeds, Fertilizers, Agricultural Implements and Machinery,

Is now in the hands of the printer, and will be ready for mailing about January 1st. It will contain, with prices attached, the most complete list of Garden and Field Seeds, Agricultural Books, Fertilizers, Agricultural Implements and Machinery, (with illustrations), ever issued in this country. Our trade being mostly in the Southern States, our efforts are to present to our customers everything in our line of the most approved and improved varieties. Our goods are such as are used more or less by every farmer, and, whilst the expense of so large a book is very great, we expect it to present so useful and attractive a list of goods, and at such favorable prices, that nearly every one that we send out will be the means of selling for us goods enough to justify this gratuitous distribution. All parties desirous of having it will have their names put upon our list by sending in their address and six cents for postage, and it will be mailed as soon as issued.

E. WHITMAN & SONS, Baltimore, Md.

CHOICE POULTRY.

MAKE A SPECIALTY OF
Light Brahmas, Black Cochins,
Buff Cochins, and Sebright Bantams,

And can also furnish most of the varieties of

PURE BRED FOWLS, DUCKS AND TURKIES,

At very low prices for pure bloods. Have a large stock Light Brahmas on hand, and can fill orders in any quantities with No. 1 birds.

Satisfaction given. No Circulars, but gladly write any information.

Prices usually from \$4 to \$5 each—some *very extra* birds a little higher. Prices include boxing, &c.

A few BERKSHIRE SWINE, same stock as stock 1st Prize at Connecticut State Agricultural Exhibition last September. Extra fine specimens \$10 each at 8 weeks old.

C. P. NETTLETON,

nov-ly

Box 530, Birmingham, Connecticut.

OFFICE OF

The Peoples Gas Company,

No. 162 W. Fayette St. Baltimore.

GAS LIME

FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES,

For Sale at the Works of the Company,

Foot of Scott Street, at TWO CENTS per Bushel.

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BERKSHIRE PIGS

OF MOST FASHIONABLE STRAINS.

Partridge Cochins and White Leghorns

CHICKENS,

At \$4 each, or \$10 per Trio.

CHARLES S. TAYLOR,

nov6t

Wynona Stock Farm, Burlington, New Jersey.

MARYLAND POUDRETTE,

Rich in Phosphates, Ammonia and other Alkaline Salts,

AS PER ANALYSIS, containing in one ton of 2,000 pounds, say

34 pounds Ammonia,

39 pounds Potash,

38 pounds Phosphoric Acid,

Also, LIME, MAGNESIA, and other valuable constituents in smaller quantities.—

For sale, packed in barrels or bags, at \$15 per ton, 2,000 pounds, by

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

28 Holliday street, Baltimore.

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100,000 PEACH TREES,

BESIDES A VARIED AND GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF

OTHER NURSERY STOCK,

For sale very low, at Middletown Nursery and Fruit Farm.

For Descriptive Catalogue and Price List—free—address

E. R. COCHRAN,

octly

MIDDLETOWN, New Castle County, Del.

THOMAS M. HARVEY,

West Grove, Chester County, Pa.

Breeder & Shipper of Butter Dairy Stock,

INCLUDING

PURE GUERNSEY, ALDERNEY, AND JERSEY.

Also, Yorkshire and Berkshire Pigs, and Dark Brahma Chickens,

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Bred from the best Strains of Imported Stock.

150 Acres Heavy Soil.

ATWOOD, ROOT & CO.

CASTLE BROOK NURSERIES,

GENEVA, NEW YORK.

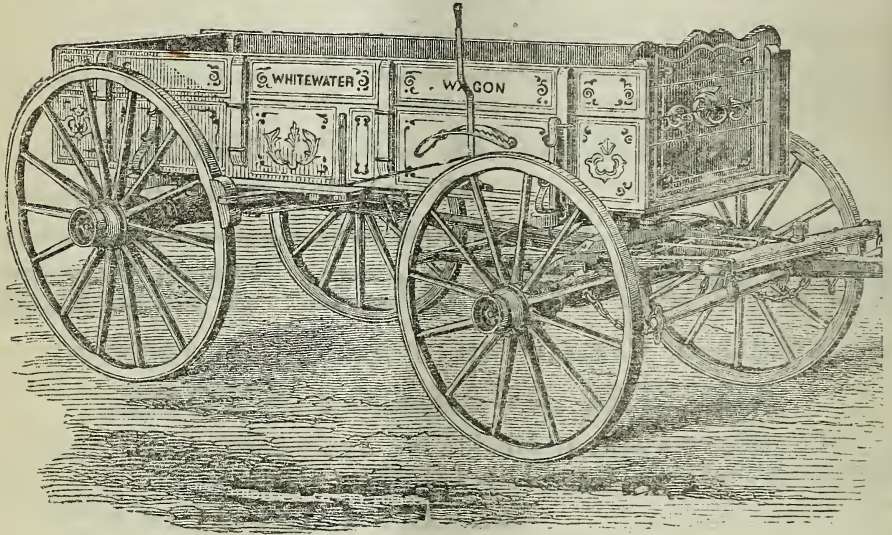
CELEBRATED GENEVA PEAR TREES,

And General Nursery Stock. Send for Price List.

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TREES.

ORNAMENTAL

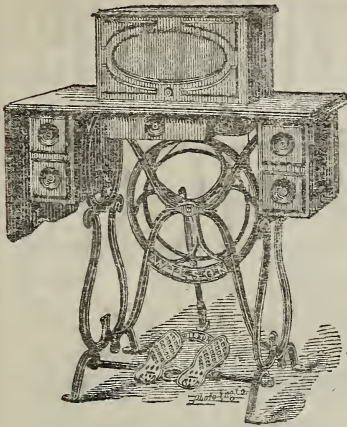


		<i>Capacity.</i>
3 inch Thimble Skein, Light 2 Horse.....	\$115 00—	2500 lbs.
$3\frac{1}{4}$ " " " Medium 2 Horse.....	120 00—	3000 lbs.
$3\frac{1}{2}$ " " " Heavy 2 Horse.....	127 50—	4000 lbs.
$3\frac{3}{4}$ " " " 3 or 4 Horse.....	132 50—	5000 lbs.
$3\frac{3}{4}$ " " " for 4 Horses, with stiff tongue, pole and stretcher chains.....	142 50—	5000 lbs.

1 1/2	inch Iron Axle, Light 2 Horse.....	\$120 00—	2300 lbs.
1 5/8	“ “ - Medium 2 Horse.....	125 00—	2800 lbs.
1 7/8	“ “ Heavy 2 Horse.....	132 50—	3500 lbs.
2	“ “ for 4 Horses, with stiff tongue, pole and stretcher chains,	150 00—	5000 lbs.
2 1/2	“ “ 4 “ “ “ “	170 00—	7000 lbs.

Nos. 145 & 147 W. Pratt Street,
BALTIMORE.

AGENTS WANTED.

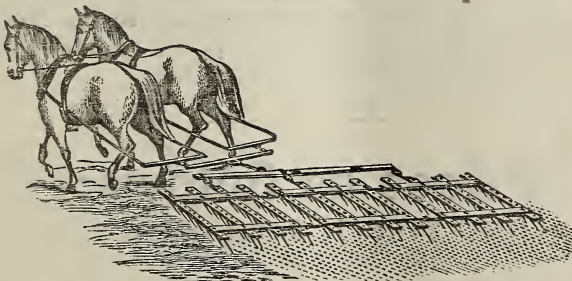


WE ARE PREPARED to OFFER
EXTRAORDINARY INDUCE-
MENTS to SMART, ENERGET-
IC MEN AND WOMEN WHO
ARE OUT OF EMPLOYMENT,
TO ENGAGE IN THE SALE OF
the WORLD-RENOWNED WIL-
SON SHUTTLE SEWING MA-
CHINES, in UNOCCUPIED TER-
RITORY. For further Particu-
lars Address WILSON SEWING
MACHINE CO., NEW YORK,
PHILADELPHIA, BOS-
TON, CHICAGO, SAINT
LOUIS, NEW ORLEANS,
OR CLEVELAND, OHIO.

THE WILSON RECEIVED
THE
SILVER PRIZE MEDAL AND
DIPLOMA OF HONOR
AT
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.
June-ly

Retail Store, 33 North Charles Street, Baltimore.

THE CELEBRATED Thomas' Smoothing Harrow.



IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE FARMER.

It puts the land in better condition for drilling Wheat than any implement ever invented.

If the Wheat is sown broadcast it harrows it in better than any other implement ever invented.

You can increase the product of your wheat crop 25 per cent. by harrowing your wheat with it in the Spring. You can cultivate your Corn with it until it is a foot high, and do it more thoroughly and satisfactorily than with any other implement. It will not Clog—It Cleans itself.

It has been as thoroughly endorsed and approved by the leading agriculturists and the Agricultural Journals as any implement that has ever appeared before the public.

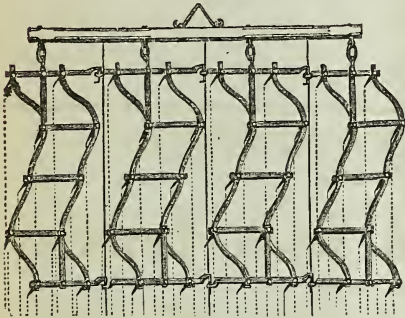
E. WHITMAN & SONS,

Agents for Md. and the Southern States.

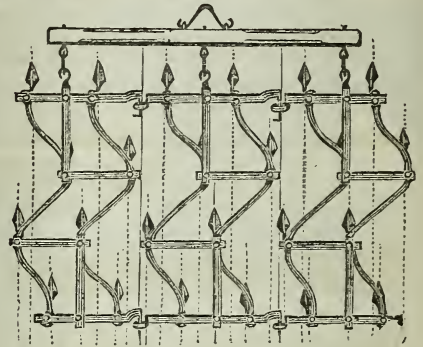
COLTON'S

All Iron and Steel

HARROWS & CULTIVATORS.



HARROW.



CULTIVATOR.

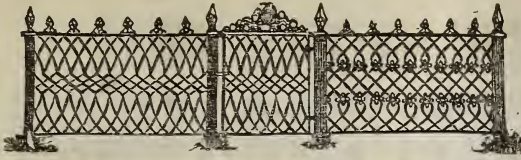
This Harrow answers a different purpose from the Thomas Smoothing Harrow, but is as admirable and efficient an implement for the purpose for which it is intended, as is the latter. It is very strong, and jointed so that it adapts itself to any unevenness of surface, and for harrowing new land, or land that is rough or stony, or that has wire grass or deeply rooted weeds in it, it is probably superior to any harrow ever invented. The Cultivator has what is commonly called "Duck's Foot" Cultivator Teeth, and will more thoroughly pulverize and loosen the earth than any implement of the kind we have ever seen. These implements have an immense sale in the Northern States and in Canada, and, recognizing their merit, we concluded to introduce them amongst our own trade.

Prices as follows:

Harrows in 3 sections, 30 teeth, 6 feet spread,	-	-	\$22.50
" 4 " 40 " 8 "	-	-	30.00
" 5 " 50 " 10 "	-	-	37.50
Cultivators in 3 sections, 24 teeth, 6 "	-	-	32.00
Extra Cultivator, sections each,	-	-	10.00
" Harrow, "	-	-	7.00

E. WHITMAN & SONS,

BALTIMORE, MD.



**WIRE RAILING
AND
ORNAMENTAL WIRE WORKS.**

DUFUR & CO.

No. 36 North Howard Street, Baltimore, Md.

MANUFACTURE

Wire Railing for Cemeteries, Balconies, &c.

SIEVES, FENDERS, CAGES, SAND & COAL SCREENS, WOVEN WIRE, &c.
novly Also, Iron Bedsteads, Chairs, Settees, &c., &c.

A. E. WARNER,

ESTABLISHED 1811.

MANUFACTURER OF

Fine Silverware and Rich Jewelry,

IMPORTER AND DEALER IN

**WATCHES, DIAMONDS & NEW BRONZES,
TREBLE SILVER-PLATED WARE OF NEW DESIGNS,
TABLE CUTLERY, &c, &c.**

Our Silverware, made on the premises, and of the Finest Standard Silver, all of which we offer
at the lowest prices, at

Dec-ly

No. 135 W. Baltimore St., near Calvert St., Baltimore.

GEO. J. STORCK

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MONUMENTAL WOOD WORKS.

A. STORCK & SONS,

No. 77 E. Monument St. and 259 N. Front Street,

NEAR BELAIR MARKET,

BALTIMORE.

DEALERS IN LUMBER.

WHITE PINE, of all sizes and qualities.

Weather-boarding, Partition Laths, Palings, Fencing, Shingles, &c.

Y. LLOW PINE Joists, Scantling and Floorings, on hand and made to order.

All kinds of Scroll and Ornamental Work—such as, Brackets, Barge Boarding, Finials, Arbor Sweeps, Mouldings, Newel's Bannisters, Balustrades, Bed-posts, Table Legs, Ten Pins and Balls, &c.

Particular attention given to getting out and working Hand Rails ready to put up to suit any style of stairway, for the Country Trade.

HUBS of all sizes and kinds a SPECIALTY.

In offering the above articles we likewise desire to inform our friends in the country that we always BUY OR TAKE IN EXCHANGE for the same, Cedar, Locust and Chesnut Posts; Black Gum, White Oak and Locust Timber for Hubs; and large White Oak Logs for Meat Blocks.

may-ly

PASSAIC AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL WORKS,

NEWARK, N. J.

159 FRONT STREET, NEW YORK.

Notice to Cotton, Wheat and Tobacco Planters.

Twenty-four years trial in America and England—we offer you

LISTER'S STANDARD FERTILIZERS,

Not to be excelled by any Manufacturers.

Lister's Standard Bone Superphosphate of Lime,

Guaranteed to be Cheaper than the best Phosphate in the market,
and up to the analysis represented.

Lister's Celebrated Bone Dust—Bone Meal—and
Bone Flour.

SAMUEL TOWNSEND & SON,
L. KELLUM & CO,

} Sole Agents,
BALTIMORE.

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EDWD. J. EVANS & CO.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

**NURSERYMEN AND SEEDSMEN,
YORK, PENNA.**

A complete assortment of Standard and Dwarf FRUIT TREES, SHADE and ORNAMENTAL TREES, EVERGREENS, Hardy Ornamental and Climbing SHRUBS, GRAPES, SMALL FRUITS, HEDGE PLANTS, &c.

Garden and Flower Seeds, Grass Seeds, Seed Potatoes, Seed Corn, Oats, Wheat, Hedge Seeds, &c., and HORTICULTURAL GOODS of all kinds.

~~See~~ Descriptive Catalogues and price lists mailed to applicants.

mar-1y

SMITH, DIXON & CO.,

Commission Paper Warehouse

MANUFACTURERS OF

PAPER AND MACHINE MADE

PAPER BAGS,

33 South Charles Street,

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V. V. KLINEFELTER.

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MARYLAND BAG FACTORY.

KLINEFELTER BROS.

MANUFACTURERS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

BAGS,

Dealers in Cotton Bagging, Ropes, Twines, &c.

SHIPPING AND GRAIN BAGS FOR HIRE.

☞ TOBACCO BAGS A SPECIALTY. ☞

S. W. Cor. South & Pratt Streets,

s-ly

BALTIMORE, MD.

PEACH TREES.

In calling attention to our immense stock of the above, we wish to state that we can now supply the following in large lots, at low rates :

RIVERS' NEW EARLY VARIETIES,

BLOOD-LEAVED, BY THE THOUSAND,

ATLANTA, FOSTER, AND RICHMOND,

BEST SOUTHERN VARIETIES.

Our assortment of Fruit Trees is the most complete that we have ever grown. The Ornamental Department is particularly rich in

Magnolias (15 Kinds,) Rare Evergreens, Ivies, Hardy Border Plants, &c., &c.

☞ NEW WHOLESALE LIST, FREE.

Hoopes Bro. & Thomas,

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Cherry Hill Nurseries, West Chester, Pa.

R. Q. TAYLOR,
OPPOSITE BARNUM'S HOTEL, Baltimore,
IMPORTER,
HATS, FURS, UMBRELLAS.

WM. W. PRETZMAN.

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G. E. S. LANSDOWNE,



BONE MANURES.

Guaranteed Uniform
IN QUALITY AND CONDITION.
Reliable for all Soils,
Crops and Climates.

Send for Circular.
J. BALSTON & CO.
170 Front St., N. Y.

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FARMERS, DAIRYMEN, STOCK
and POULTRY BREEDERS, FISH CULTURISTS, APIARIANS,
or any person that keeps even a HUSBAND, a COW, or POULTRY,
or is interested in the advancement and improvement in
AGRICULTURE, whether he lives in CITY, TOWN, or COUNTRY,
before subscribing for any other publication, should examine the

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Pronounced the most ABLE, VERSATILE and READABLE
Journal of its class. Beautifully Printed and Illustrated.
National, giving equal attention to the Stock Interests of every
State. Edited in separate departments. Monthly, 1.50 per year.
6th Volume begins January, 1875. Paye emvassers best.
Agents wanted everywhere. Specimen copy, 10 cents.
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KINNEYS BROWN PRINCE

F. J. KINNEY,
BREEDER OF
BROWN LEGHORN FOWLS,
ORIGINATOR AND BREEDER OF
WORCESTER COUNTY FOWLS.
Eggs for Hatching and Fowls for Sale
AT FAIR PRICES.

P. O. Address, Olean Street,
WORCESTER, MASS.

[YARDS AT TATNUCK.]

I claim to have bred Brown Leghorn Fowls as long
as any person in America, and to have the LARGEST
WHITE EAR-LOBE STOCK there is now in the world.
Am breeding them at Buffalo, N. Y., for my western
trade, and at several other places beside my Home
Yards. Have over 2000 Thorough Bred Chicks.

I also offer to beat with said Brown Leghorns any other breed of fowls in the world—laying eggs, or
for early poultry. They are non-sitters. Have taken 1st and special premiums at all the exhibitions I
have attended this season. Am breeding from three 1st premium Cocks and Cockerels, and several 2d
and 3d premiums. Have SOLD NO PREMIUM birds.

I MAKE A SPECIALTY OF

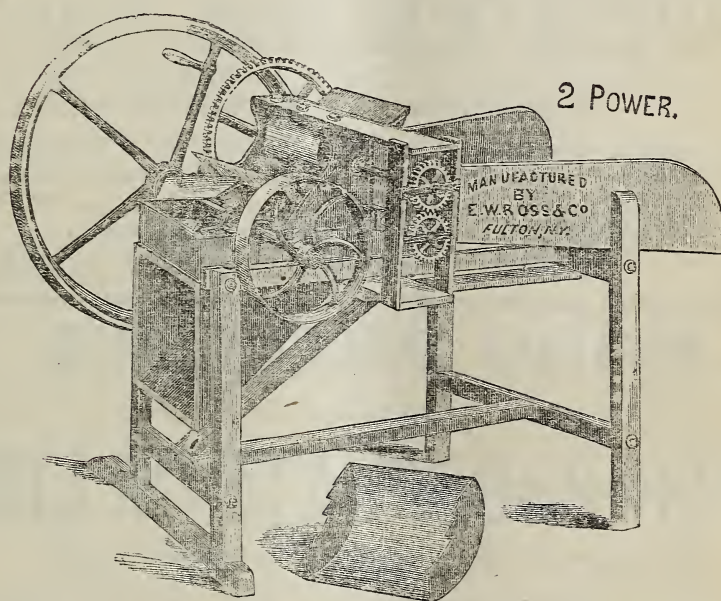
STRAWBERRIES, GRAPES & CURRANTS,

and have several acres under cultivation—have taken first premiums at the Worcester County Horticultural
Society's annual exhibition, for largest and best collections Strawberries, five years in succession,
and have sold Strawberries grown out of doors at a higher price per quart than any other man in the
State. I also offer a limited number of Plants of my new seedling Strawberry, Kinney's No. 10. I have
tested the No. 10 thoroughly, fruiting one acre the past season, and shall set 5 acres for next season. It
is by far the most profitable Market Strawberry I am acquainted with. Is a seedling of Wilson crossed
on Jucunda. Is a better berry in every respect than the Wilson, and nearly two weeks later. Is just
what we have all been watching for. It does remarkably well in all soils where it has been tried. As
hardy as Wilson, is stronger in growth, and as productive.

I shall sell a limited number of plants in the spring of 1875, at \$3 per dozen, \$20 per hundred, and
\$100 per thousand. seply

THE CUMING'S IMPROVED FEED CUTTER.

The Only Perfect Machines
FOR CUTTING HAY, STRAW, STALKS,
AND ALL KINDS OF FODDER.



We make Six Sizes, with capacity from 500 lbs. to 3 tons per hour.

The CUMING'S CUTTERS are fifteen years ahead of all other makes. Fifteen years ago they were what other cutters are now, that is, geared cutters. The Cuming's are not geared, receiving the power direct upon the knives.

The No. 1 has three knives, all other sizes four.

The machines are made from the choicest material and perfectly finished, and are well known in the North and West, and can now be had in all the principal cities and towns of Pennsylvania, Maryland and the South. Send for circulars to

E. W. ROSS & CO., Sole Manufacturers,
decly *Fulton, Oswego Co., N. Y.*

THOMAS NORRIS & SON,
Manufacturers and Dealers in
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS,
Field and Garden Seeds, Fertilizers, &c.

Would call special attention to the following first-class Machines, &c.

Westinghouse Threshers and Cleaners,

Aultman & Taylor's Threshers and Cleaners,

Lever and Railway Horse Powers—most approved.

Van Wickle Wheat Fan. Price \$37.

American Cider Mill and Press—the best—\$40.

Young America Cider Mill and Press—Family use—\$25.

BICKFORD & HUFFMAN GRAIN DRILLS.

Plows, Harrows, Cultivators, Straw Cutters, Corn Shellers, and all kinds of *Farming Tools. Fresh Field and Garden Seeds, Pure Ground Bone and other Fertilizers.*

THOMAS NORRIS & SON,

aug-tf

141 PRATT STREET, BALTIMORE, MD.

MORO PHILLIP'S

GENUINE IMPROVED

SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

STANDARD GUARANTEED.

Reduced in price, and improved in quality by the addition of Potash. This article is already too well known to require any comments upon its Agricultural value. Thirteen years experience has fully demonstrated to the agricultural community its lasting qualities on all crops, and the introduction of Potash gives it additional value.

Price \$50 Per Ton, 2000 lbs. Discount to Dealers.

PURE PHUINE

Superior to Peruvian Guano. Discount to Dealers.

Manufactured by **MORO PHILLIPS.**

Price \$50 Per Ton---2,000 Pounds. Discount to Dealers.

For sale at Manufacturer's Depots : { 110 S. DELAWARE AV., Philadelphia, Pa.
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And by Dealers in general throughout the country. Pamphlets mailed free on application.

MORO PHILLIPS,

Sole Proprietor and Manufacturer

ap-ly

ESTABLISHED 1839.

To Farmers, Planters & Gardeners!

PURE GROUND BONE,

MANUFACTURED BY

JOHN BULLOCK & SON,

61 S. Gay Street, Baltimore, Md.

Factory, Washington Road, within City Limits.

P. O. Box 636.

PACKED IN BARRELS OR BAGS, \$45 PER TON.

For the past thirty years we have been engaged in the manufacture of Pure Ground Bone, our crude stock being gathered daily from the Butchers here, with whom we have yearly contracts. Having recently added additional and improved machinery, we are now prepared to fill all orders in our line with promptness and despatch. Would respectfully call attention to the annexed certificate:

BALTIMORE, March 1st, 1873.

Messrs. John Bullock & Son, Baltimore, Md.

GENTS—The following is the result of an analysis of your Ground Bone:

	PER	CENT.
Moisture determined at 212° Fahrenheit,	-	5 44
Organic matter,	-	39 16
Containing Nitrogen, 4.47 per cent.,		
Equal to Ammonia, 5.42 per cent.		
Inorganic matter,	-	55 40
Containing Phosphoric Acid, 22.15 per cent.,		
Equal to Bone Phos. of Lime, 48.35 per cent.		
Alumina, Oxide of Iron, and Carbonate and Floride of Lime not determined.		
Insoluble Residue, 3.61 per cent.		

100 00

I am pleased to state that this is one of the richest and most available forms of Phosphate of Lime and Ammonia that can be found for agricultural purposes. The percentage of valuable ingredients named is in excess of the generality of fertilizers now being offered for sale.

Respectfully, &c.,

P. B. WILSON,

Analytical and Consulting Chemist.

R. SINCLAIR & CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY,

ALSO, GROWERS AND IMPORTERS OF

GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDS,

Dealers in Fruit Trees and Plants.

Would call the special attention of our friends and customers, to the following first-class Machinery and Implements, which we guarantee to be equal to any article of the kind made in this Country, being all of our own Manufacture.

We name in part, such Machines as are required by the Farmer and Planter in the Winter and Spring Seasons, viz: **SINCLAIR'S PATENT MASTICATOR**, of which we make four sizes, viz: Hand, Steam and Horse Power.

Sinclair's Patent Screw Propeller Hay Straw & Fodder Cutters,

of which we make four sizes, viz: Light Hand Power, Hand Power, several sizes, and Horse Power three sizes. All of the above-named Cutters are our own Patents and Manufacture, and are such as we can recommend.

Reading's Patent Horse-Power Corn Sheller, with Fan Attachment.
Sheller, plain.

Double Spout Hand or Power Sheller. Single Spout Shellers—all kinds.

Corn and Cob Mills, Grist Mills, for Farm and Plantation use. **WHEAT AND CORN FANNING MILLS.**

"Anderson's" Agricultural Steamer, for preparing feed for Stock. The best in use.
Threshers and Separators—different kinds and sizes.

Horse Powers, all sizes and patterns.

Ox Yokes and Bows, Horse Power Road Scrapers, Hay and Straw Presses.

Plows, different kinds and sizes, **Harrows, Cultivators**, and all kinds of Farming and Horticultural Tools.

Dec-1y

Address,

R. SINCLAIR & CO.

62 Light Street, Baltimore, Md.

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THE

CELEBRATED CLOTHIERS,

OF BALTIMORE, MD.

Announce the introduction of a plan of ordering

CLOTHING AND UNDERWEAR BY LETTER,

To which they call your special attention. They will send on application their improved and accurate **RULES FOR SELF-MEASUREMENT**, and a full line of samples from their immense stock of

Cloths, Cassimeres, Coatings, Shirts &c., &c.

A large and well-assorted stock of **READY-MADE CLOTHING** always on hand, together with a full line of **FURNISHING GOODS.**

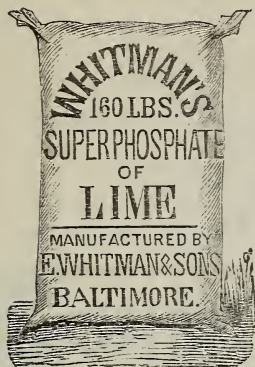
NOAH WALKER & CO.

Manufacturers and Dealers in Men's and Boys' Clothing and Furnishing Goods, either Ready-Made or Made to Order.

Nos. 165 & 167 W. BALTIMORE ST.,

Baltimore, Md.

PURE FERTILIZERS.



**WHITMAN'S
SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME,**
Manufactured only by E. WHITMAN & SONS,
IS THE
MOST RELIABLE PHOSPHATE IN THE MARKET.

Price \$50 Per Ton, in Sacks, of 160 pounds each.

MISSOURI BONE MEAL.

Its Superior an Impossibility.

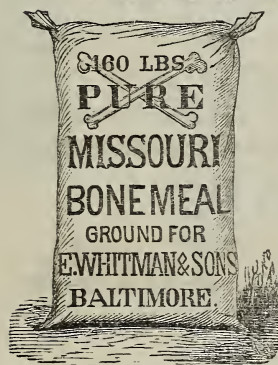
Analysis : Ammonia..... 4.38
 Bone Phosphate of Lime.....49.51

Which is the highest analysis yielded by pure bone. The largest particles are smaller than timothy seed.

Price \$48 Per Ton, in Sacks of 160 lbs. each.

CAUTION!

As some parties are offering as MISSOURI BONE MEAL other than the genuine article, we caution all persons that none is genuine unless the bags are branded as shown in the accompanying cut. Our Trade Mark is copyrighted, and we take the entire production of the Mill, and all infringements upon our copyright will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This article is perfectly pure, and has made a reputation for excellence never equaled by any Bone offered in this market. We do not claim that Bones ground in Missouri are any better than others, but we do claim that the Bone ground by our MILL is perfectly pure, and in unusually fine condition. "Missouri Bone Meal" is a name that we gave to designate this particular article; and to keep other dealers from palming off their goods upon those desiring the genuine Missouri Bone Meal, we have had our Trade Mark copyrighted.



New Jersey Ground Bone.

PRICE \$40 PER TON.

We have sold hundreds of tons of this Bone, and it has invariably given satisfaction. Peruvian Guano, South Carolina Bone (fine ground or dissolved,) Plaster, Sulphuric Acid, Potash, Sulphate of Soda, Nitrate of Soda, and all kinds of Fertilizer materials always on hand and for sale at the lowest market prices.

E. WHITMAN & SONS,

Dealers in Agricultural Implements and Garden Seeds,
145 & 147 W. PRATT ST., Baltimore, Md.

Bone Flour & Bone Dust

ANALYSIS:

AMMONIA, - - - - -	4.37
BONE PHOSPHATE OF LIME, - - - - -	44.56

Ground by ourselves, and warranted pure. Superior to any offered in this market.
Packed in good, strong bags. Price \$43 per ton.

J. J. TURNER & CO.

42 Pratt Street, Baltimore.

sep

Dry Peruvian Guano.

500 TONS DRY GUANAPE GUANO,

Part of the cargoes of ships South America and Heroine. Imported in 1870. This is the only DRY GUANAPE GUANO in the city. For sale from Peruvian Agents' Warehouse.

J. J. TURNER & CO.

42 W. Pratt St., Baltimore.

sep

BROOKSIDE Rabbitry & Poultry Yards.



POULTRY. Brown Leghorns—equal to any in America—White-Ear Lobed—(not the only stock either.)

CREVECOEURS—Stock imported from Jardin de Acclimation, Paris, France.

SILKIES—best in America—black faces and crested.

PIGEONS Turbits, Magpies, Jacobines and Antwerps. The latter, from the best homing strains in Belgium, bred from birds that have been flown 700 miles.

RABBITS. My Rabbitries contain 7 different varieties, viz: MALAGASCAR or LOP-EARED, ANGORAS—white and fawn colored, HIMALAYANS, DUTCH, BELGIAN, SILVER GREY and COMMON. Comprising the largest and finest Stock in America.

EGGS IN SEASON.

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